■ **Metro / A23**
Aircon buses offer P1.50 fare cut

■ **World / A12**
2 Americans, Briton kidnapped in Baghdad

■ **Business / B1**
GSIS goes after P40B in contributions

■ **News / A3**
6.2 quake shakes Metro, Luzon

■ **Entertainment / A33**
Gabriela supports Decena, Dungca vs Phillip Salvador

Enrile blows top over 'guide questions'

By Christine Avendaño

OOPS, bungled again.

Will the task force still under fire for its failure to resolve the multibillion-peso tax credit scam ever get it right?

ENRILE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, September 17, 2004 ★★ 68 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 282 P18

Usec on top of tax credit cases quits

JESS YUSON

FINANCE Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. and Task Force executive director Alan Ventura undergo another grilling at the Senate.

By Michelle V. Remo and Christine O. Avendaño

THE CO-CHAIR of the task force which is being investigated for its failure to make headway in the multibillion-peso tax credit scam, has resigned amid allegations that the agency is bungling its own cases in exchange for some favors.

Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. told senators yesterday that he turned in two "irrevocable" resignation letters to Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong on Wednesday out of his sense of propriety.

Ferrer, who was also in charge of the country's domestic borrowings, was the second key economic adviser to go in a week as the government grapples with daunting economic problems.

The finance department said his resignation was unrelated to National Treasurer Mina Figueroa's decision to quit earlier

USEC/ A8

BLUE ribbon committee Chair Joker Arroyo gives Ferrer a little more time.

JESS YUSON

Pay cuts for gov't fat cats

GSIS, SEC heads vow to back austerity plan

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered her nominees in government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) to trim their fat compensation packages and observe her austerity program—or else.

Apparently mindful of the public outcry over the issue, Ms Arroyo laid down the directive during her meeting with GOCC executives on Wednesday night in Malacañang. In a speech yesterday before businessmen attending the 13th Mindanao Business Conference in Davao City, she said: "As for GOCCs, they are being pruned and whipped into line."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told radio station dzRB that the President had mandated "a cut in pay of members of the board and officers of GOCCs that are not competing with the private sector."

Boncodin did not name the agencies to be covered or exempted. She said those that did not compete with the private sector would have to observe the Salary Standardization Law.

But Winston Garcia of the Government Service Insurance System and Fe Barin of the Securities and Exchange Commission are

PAY/ A20

Gov't workers press ₱3,000 wage increase

By Norman Bordadora
in Manila
and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

EXPRESSING outrage, rank-and-file workers in the government yesterday urged Malacañang to prune the multimillion-peso salaries of the executives of its corporations and heed their call for a P3,000 across-the-board wage increase for themselves.

"It is simply outrageous that [many of the] 1.4 million government employees are living way below the poverty line and are the hardest hit by [Malacañang's] austerity measures while the top officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) are overindulging in gargantuan salaries, allowances and bonuses," said Ferdinand Gaite, president of the nationwide Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage).

Gaite also said Malacañang's

GOV'T WORKERS/ A10

ERIK ARAZAS

WRONG VENUE. A member of a new singing group called D'Bodies tries to coax a song out of a Manila policeman as they stage a racy show along Roxas Boulevard on Thursday. Unimpressed, policemen said they would file charges against the women. *(See story on Page A23.)*

GMA asks top 50,000 taxpayers to pay ₱1M more

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Warning that the economy would be in its "death throes" in two years unless new taxes were imposed, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the country's top 50,000 taxpayers to each pay P1 million more to help the government raise at least P180 billion to cover the budget deficit.

"Better to have some pain now and feel the gain two years from now than postpone the pain," the President said in a speech at the 13th Mindanao Business Conference here.

Ms Arroyo issued the warning amid widespread opposition to her proposal for new taxes and criticism of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) whose losses have contributed to the widening fiscal deficit.

A Pulse Asia survey found that 78 percent of the people were against new taxes and that they wanted the government to instead improve tax collection and stop wasteful spending.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye downplayed the threat of public opposition. "We are confident that as time passes, more and more will recognize the gravity of the situation and the need for greater sacrifice," he said in a statement.

In her speech, Ms Arroyo said no traditional politician would ask the people to pay more taxes at a time when the people felt they were already suffering.

"But as President, if I'm to be an honest President I must do so in all candor because our people deserve no less than the truth from

GMA/ A11

RELATIVES and friends visit Perlito Ibañez's tomb at a cemetery in San Pedro, Laguna.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Despondent athlete commits suicide

After long brave run, endurance man Ibañez falters in the end

By Fe B. Zamora

SAN Pedro, Laguna—Perlito "Pokong" Ibañez proved his endurance in long-distance running and cycling, but ranged against life's adversities, the 25-year-old prize-winning triathlete faltered and fell.

On June 24, the 5-foot-1-inch Ibañez hanged himself inside his room in a rented apartment here, driven to despondency by financial and family problems.

In two suicide notes, he spoke of "pressing problems that I could not handle anymore," according to younger brother Renato and friend, Romel "Jing" Anchoriz, who read Ibañez's last letters.

He also asked for forgiveness from his mother, Ely.

Ibañez's death not only deprived Philippine sports of a young athlete who, if developed to his full potentials, might have had a chance to represent the country in the 2006 Asian Games.

It also threw into focus the sorely inadequate support Filipino athletes get from sports

DESPONDENT/ A10

We have become 'people of the lie'

(Editor's Note: The writer, a doctor of psychiatry and stress and trauma specialist, is the director of the Center for Gender and Women's Studies at the University of the Philippines Manila, the chief of psychiatry and behavior medicine at the Philippine Heart Center, and associate professor of psychiatry at the UP College of Medicine.)

COMMENTARY

By Dr. June C. Pagaduan-Lopez

THE TRAGIC news rekindled my heartbreak.

A young athlete had hanged himself. Friends and fellow athletes suggested two reasons for his despondency—the breakup with his live-in partner, and serious financial problems. Two months earlier, he had stopped receiving his allowance from the Philippine Sports Commission, half of which he had shared with another athlete.

I would have written this commentary seven months ago, as I promised my daughter and all her athlete friends, after witnessing their misadventures during the SEA Games in Hanoi, Vietnam,

WE HAVE/ A10

IBANEZ wrote two suicide notes.

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Visayas, Mindoro and Palawan will experience occasional rains with gusty winds. Central and the rest of Southern Luzon, rest of Visayas and Western Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/17/04 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Occasional Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Occasional Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Occasional Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

JDV backtracks; pork here to stay

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

CONGRESSIONAL pork is here to stay. It's only the system of doling it out that will change.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday made this clarification in the face of a brewing rebellion against his leadership among House members unwilling to give up their pork and opposed to De Venecia's earlier announcement that the pork barrel system would be abolished.

De Venecia, who said that he would be holding a dialogue with House members on Monday to settle the pork barrel row, explained in a dzMM radio interview and at a Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines forum that what would be abolished was the "corruption-prone" system of lump sum appropriations of the pork barrel funds.

Each representative receives a lump sum appropriation of P65 million to P70 million a year (senators receive P200 million each), which they then directed towards projects of their choosing in their congressional districts. This became a major source of corruption as many legislators allegedly made money from bribes and commissions from the private contractors of the projects.

De Venecia said that under the new system being proposed, the representatives would still have their pork barrel but they would have less discretion to juggle the funds as they would be required to identify in advance what projects would be funded from it.

He said this will be done through the line-item budgeting process which the House appropriations committee will implement when it goes over the proposed 2005 national budget submitted by Malacañang.

De Venecia said that under this budgeting system, each project, whether school or irrigation system, would be identified in the budget "so no one will cheat."

The public works requirements of every barangay, city and town from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila will be specified.

By identifying the projects for each district, he said there can be no realignment of funds as full disclosure of the nature and amounts of these allocations would be required.

"So in effect, it abolishes the pork barrel system but the public works requirements are still there," De Venecia said.

In its national budget proposal, Malacañang has already provided for a 40 percent cut in the yearly pork barrel funds of representatives and senators.

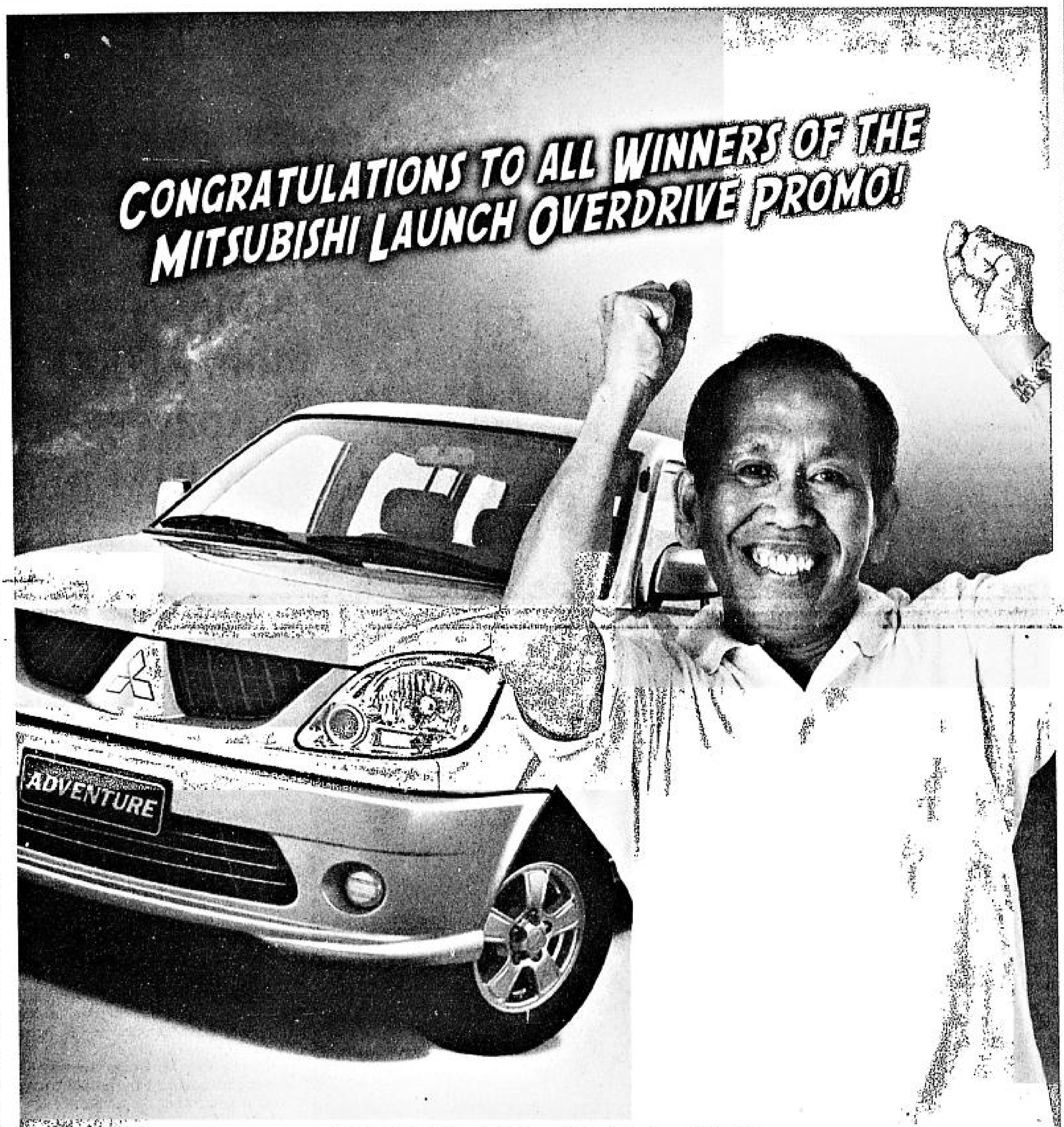
De Venecia said Congress would also see to the implementation of "electronic procurement bidding" to make contracts transparent and lessen suspicions of corruption.

In another House controversy, Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz on Wednesday night apologized to his colleagues for his pseudo-resignation and the bad publicity it generated, putting the blame squarely on the media.

In a privilege speech, Diaz explained that his Sept. 9 resignation letter to De Venecia in which he he said it was "no longer an honor to serve" in the House, may have been "misunderstood."

He said the sentence should have read: "It is no longer an honor to serve this body which media perception has played up so badly, Mr. Speaker, which was once an august body."

The group of 24 neophyte representatives who filed a complaint with the House ethics committee against Diaz accepted Diaz's apology and said they would withdraw the complaint.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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

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Speaker returns, fights back

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

LESS than a day after he returned from abroad, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday moved to quell a brewing revolt in the House that could end up in his losing control of the chamber.

De Venecia lashed out at the rebellion's main instigator, Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (Kampi, Isabela), calling him a political butterfly.

Albano had bolted the majority bloc, resigned as deputy speaker and called on De Venecia to share the speakership with others as a first step in improving the image of the House.

A number of House members allied, with Albano have been exhibiting some restiveness over the issue of abolishing the pork barrel system and the allegedly uneven distribution of committee chairmanships.

In an interview with dzMM radio, De Venecia said that Albano was dissatisfied over his failure to get into the inter-agency commission tasked to oversee the privatization of the National Power Corp., the state-owned power-generating firm.

"That's the way he (Albano) is," said De Venecia of Albano, noting how the latter started out with the Nationalist People's Coalition, then moved to the ruling Lakas-CMD, jumping to the revived Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino party of President Macapagal-Arroyo a few weeks ago, before joining the minority last week.

De Venecia explained that there would have been a conflict of interest if he had let Albano go to the power commission overseeing Napocor as his father, former congressman Rodolfo Albano Jr., was chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission, the state power regulator.

The senior Albano and De Venecia are close political allies, their friendship spanning several decades.

De Venecia described as "strong and fairly solid" the support for his leadership in the House, saying the intramurals among the members and protests against his stewardship were normal in a democracy.

"These are just noises of democracy," De Venecia told a forum at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines as he stressed that he was not disturbed by the reported dissatisfaction among some House members over his handling of the pork barrel issue and the distribution of committee chairmanships.

In a separate interview with dzMM radio, Albano III hit back at De Venecia, claiming that "the trouble with him is that he is always traveling abroad."

He also did not see any conflict of interest in his becoming a member of the power commission as he claimed "the commission has no jurisdiction over the ERC."

Spy cameras for graft busters

By Armand N. Nocum

IT'S NOT only corrupt government officials who will be under the Ombudsman's watchful eye.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has filled the Ombudsman's central office in Quezon City with "spy cameras" to monitor the movements of its personnel and visitors.

And Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. has had enough of the tight security.

"They are cutting the accessibility of the general public to the officials who are supposed to serve them, which is contrary to law," said Gervacio in an interview with the INQUIRER at his office.

The cameras were installed over a month ago in key areas of the Ombudsman's office. Before that, Marcelo put in place a color-coded pass system which requires visitors to get a different color pass for every floor they visit.

To do this, they have to return to the ground floor each time they need to go to another floor. If they need to transact business on three floors, they have to go down to the ground floor three times.

When reporters complained about the system, Marcelo ordered the issuance of one ID for all floors.

2 strong quakes rock RP

By Norman Bordadora

TWO RELATIVELY strong earthquakes shook the country's largest islands, Luzon and Mindanao, just before dawn yesterday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported.

Phivolcs field monitoring teams had yet to report any damage but experts expected aftershocks to occur.

The Luzon quake with a magnitude of 6.2 occurred at 3:10 a.m. with its epicenter in Balanga, Bataan, followed 35 minutes later by a magnitude 5.2 temblor centered near General Santos City in Mindanao at 3:45 a.m.

Phivolcs experts, however, said the temblors were not connected as they were caused by movement in tectonic plates (near the earth's crust) in different parts of the country.

"These were unrelated," said Phivolcs expert Joan Salcedo. The Luzon quake was caused by movement in the Manila trench while the Mindanao tremor was caused by a deformation in the Sangihe slab in southern Mindanao.

Intensity 4 was recorded in Bataan, Manila, Subic, Tagaytay and Pampanga.

Intensity 3 was recorded in Quezon City, Makati, Taguig, Marikina and Las Piñas in Metro Manila; Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro; Batangas City; Malolos and Sta. Maria in Bulacan; Lucban and Infanta in Quezon, and Cabuyao and Biñan in Laguna.

Intensity 2 was recorded in Caloocan City and Baguio City.

Salcedo explained that magnitude measures the amount of energy released by an earthquake, while the Richter scale measures the intensity of the temblor's effect on structures and people in the affected areas.

"We normally expect aftershocks after earthquakes of great magnitude. Six-point-two is considered a strong earthquake and we expect aftershocks," Salcedo said.

In the second quake, Intensity 4 was recorded in General Santos City.

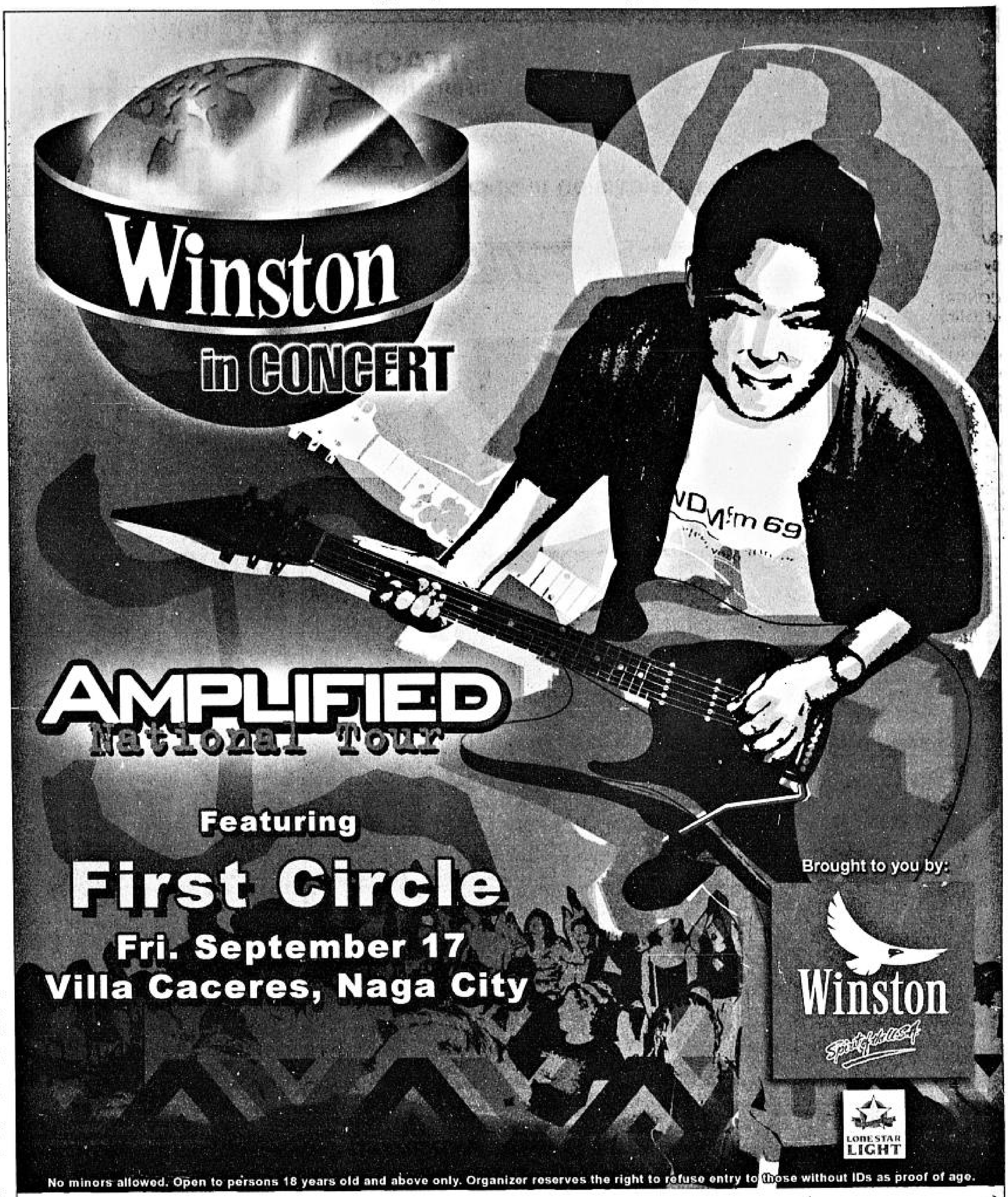
"(Magnitude) 5.2 is not really strong but we still expect aftershocks," Salcedo said.

Jaime Sincioco, Phivolcs resident scientist at Clark Field, Pampanga, said the Luzon quake occurred at a depth of 91.1 kilometers.

He said "shallow focus" earthquakes, with depths of less than 70 km, tended to be stronger and created more damage because these were closer to the earth's surface where the rocks were stronger and built up more strain.

Annette Libas, 27, in Pampanga, said she was lying awake when her home started swaying.

"I thought our house might collapse, but the shaking stopped, leaving us just rattled," she told The Associated Press. *With Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AP*



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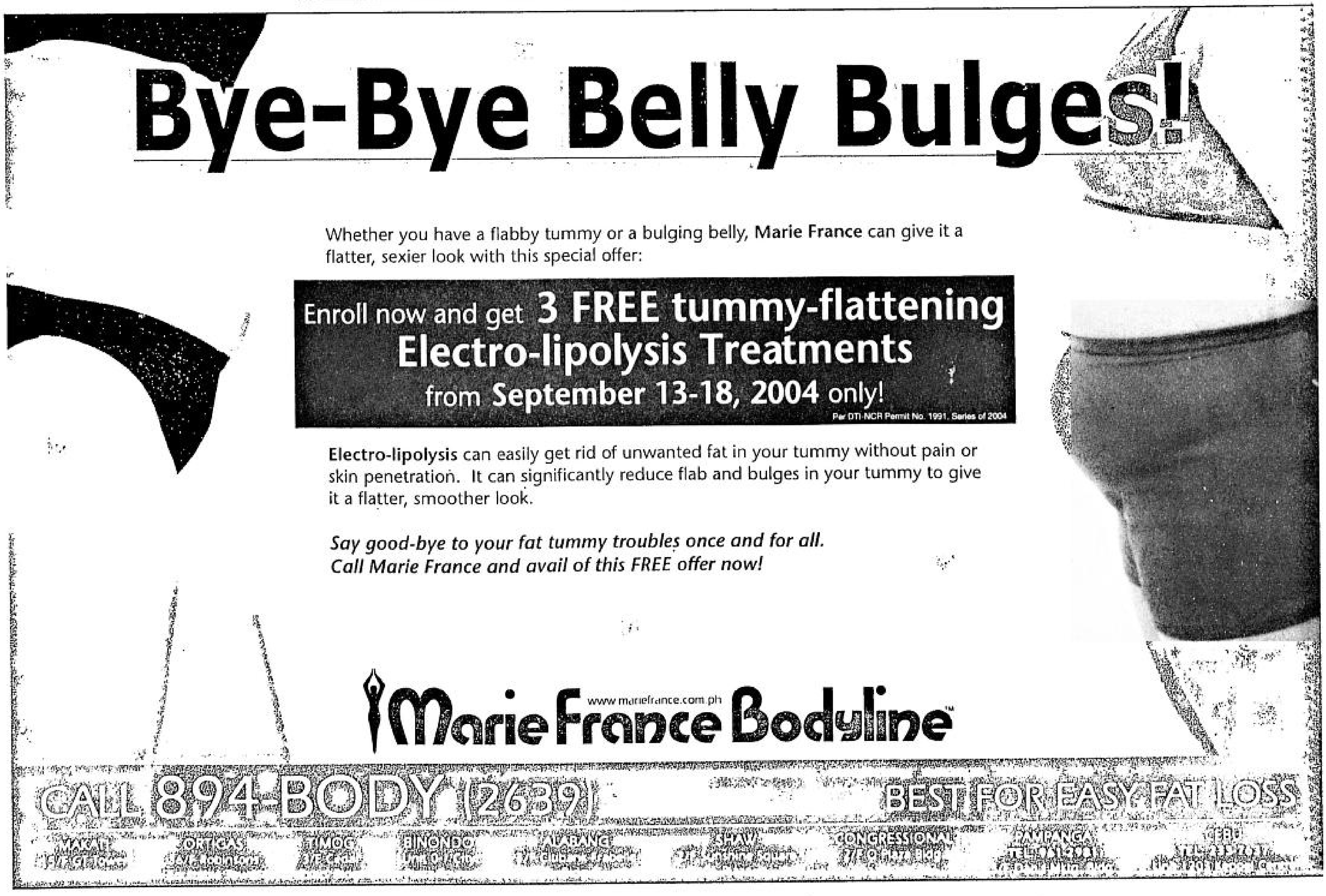

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No belt tightening at DBP amid crisis

By Armand N. Nocum

WHILE the rest of the government is tightening its belt in light of the fiscal crisis, the directors of the Development Bank of the Philippines have managed to create jobs for their wives, children and other relatives.

In a letter to Commission on Audit (COA) Chair Guillermo Carague, a top DBP official said the "irregular hiring" had caused "demoralization" among DBP employees.

"Before the start of the last election ban, the DBP board of directors approved the creation of confidential and co-terminus positions for the office of the board. Each director is entitled to two positions which are given to close relatives (wives, children, cousins, etc.)," said Emma G. Urieta, senior assistant vice president in the DBP's Office of the Legal Counsel.

The Sept. 6 letter, a copy of which the INQUIRER obtained from COA sources, was also furnished President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to Urieta, the salaries of these confidential employees are taken from each director's P75,000 "office and staff allowance," a disbursement that Carague had earlier disapproved.

Urieta, however, did not state in her letter how many board members the DBP had or how many confidential personnel had been hired.

Urieta said DBP president Simon Paterno had earlier decreed the confidential employees "are not required to report to the bank (DBP)."

What she found "anomalous" and "prejudicial to the interest of the bank," she said, was the fact that while the DBP directors claimed these employees were not being paid by the bank because their salaries came from the directors' allowances, "their plantilla items are with the DBP and their appointments were approved by the (Civil Service Commission)."

They also get a health care plan and a monthly rice subsidy, she said.

Urieta also accused the DBP board of filling a "third level position to accommodate a political recommendee," despite a duplication of functions.

She pointed to the July appointment of lawyer Benilda Tejada to replace DBP Chief Legal Counsel Carlos R. Cruz, who is retiring in December.

Napocor woes blamed on GMA

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's populist move to put a cap on power rate adjustments two years ago not only pushed the country into a fiscal crisis, it has also jeopardized the government's ability to sell National Power Corp. and attract investors to build new power plants to avert a looming power crisis.

University of the Philippines economist and former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla told the INQUIRER that President Arroyo's decision to reduce Napocor purchased power adjustment from P1.25 per kilowatt hour to only 40 centavos in 2002 has set back industry reforms by at least two years.

Medalla said the cap, which he described as a move to win the elections, practically stalled the implementation of the Epira (the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001) because it discouraged investors from taking a strong interest in Napocor.

Sen. Joker Arroyo had earlier said that the ballooning public sector deficit could be traced directly to the President's meddling in the power rate setting which has only increased government subsidies on electricity sales.

Correction

IN THE Sept. 14 issue, in a story on Page A15, "John O sues Cebu rivals for plunder," the figure on Cebu province's total income that was attributed to lawyer Pablo John Garcia and that was based on a Commission on Audit report should have been P1,398,047,000 (or P1.39 billion), and not P1,398,047 (or P1.39 million).

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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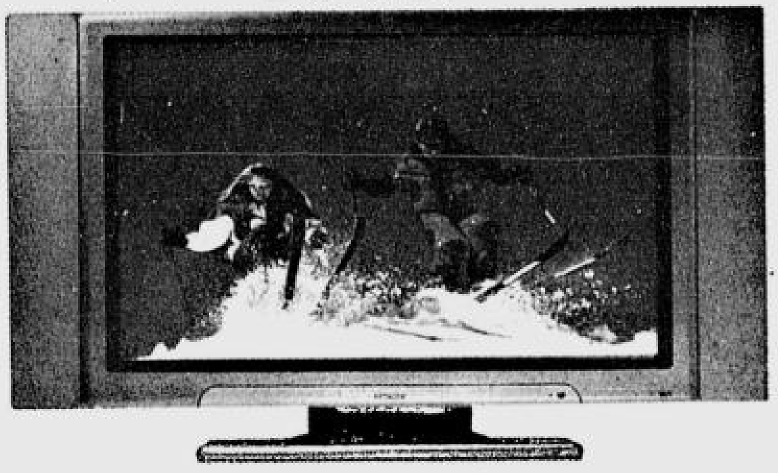

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MILF leaders off the hook in Davao blasts

By Philip C. Tubeza

A DAVAO court has formally dropped the criminal charges against the top Moro Islamic Liberation Front leaders linked to the bombing of the Davao wharf and airport last year that killed 38 persons and injured hundreds, said Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta yesterday.

Davao Regional Trial Judge Paul Arcangel dismissed on Sept. 10 the multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder case against 190 suspects in the case, which included current MILF chair Al Haj Murad, vice chair Ghadzali Jaafar, and spokesperson Eid Kabalu, Acosta said.

Acosta said Arcangel issued the order after the Public Attorney's Office was able to convince the Department of Justice that there was no probable cause against the suspects.

"This will be of great help to the peace process," Acosta said.

Dieting Loi faints in badminton court

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. LUISA "Loi" Estrada was rushed to a hospital Wednesday night after she fainted while playing badminton in Libis, Quezon City.

"But my mother is okay now," said Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in a phone interview a few hours after the former first lady was admitted to Medical City in Pasig City.

Senator Loi was discharged from the hospital the next morning after she was found to be "in good health without any signs of cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Roberto Anastacio.

"She was very, very fortunate that she did not have any signs of a heart attack, and she's now home resting," said Jinggoy Estrada.

Mrs. Estrada had been playing badminton for two hours when she complained of dizziness to her daughter Jacky, with whom she was playing, at about 7 p.m.

Asked if she collapsed, Jinggoy Estrada said: "She told me everything went dark... and then she fainted."

The younger Estrada said the dizziness may have been caused by "dehydration because she was playing badminton for two straight hours while she was on a diet."

Estrada said his mother was on her second week of the South Beach Diet, a weight-loss program that prohibits for the first two weeks the intake of sweets, fruits and other carbohydrate-based products essential to the body in strenuous sports.

Jinggoy said his mother played badminton three times a week. "She does not rest, she plays badminton for two hours straight."

The other night, her body finally succumbed to fatigue, leaving her "feeling very weak" and "really dehydrated," Jinggoy said.

"According to my sister Jacky, she did not see our mother drink any water at all while they were playing," he said.

Jinggoy said he immediately informed his father, former President Joseph Estrada, about what happened. "He, of course, was surprised and was calling me every minute to ask about the condition of my mother," he said.

Asked if the doctors advised Mrs. Estrada to stop her diet, Jinggoy said, "Maybe, I don't know."

Anastacio, a cardiologist at Makati Medical Center and the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, said in a medical bulletin that "on critical investigation, the senator was clammy with normal blood pressure (120/80) and cardiovascular system."

"The whole problem was centered on heat and humidity resulting in dehydration. After a fluid intravenous challenge, she immediately improved, rested and went home after several hours," Anastacio said.

Earlier, on Sept. 8, during a hearing of the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports, the soft-spoken Senator Estrada had joked that she could never win a badminton match against former first lady Amelita Ramos, the president of the Philippine Badminton Association.

This after Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid had suggested the two former first ladies play each other in a fund-raiser for next year's Southeast Asian games.

Amid chuckles from the crowd, Mrs. Estrada said of Mrs. Ramos: "Mr. Chairman, I can't beat her. She is the authority when it comes to badminton."

But Mrs. Ramos quipped back: "Mrs. Loi is already the winner."

PNOC says it earned ₱4.6B in 3 years

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Company (PNOC) reported a net consolidated income of P4.646 billion from 2001 to 2003 and is expected to post net earnings of P2.446 billion this year, according to records of the Commission on Audit (COA).

The COA figures show a significant financial turnaround for the PNOC when Ambassador Thelmo Cunanan, its immediate past president and chief executive officer, was at its helm from 2001 to 2003.

"I would like to set the record straight: the PNOC is making money, not losing money. The PNOC and its subsidiaries have also registered improved financial ratios—a significant and substantial turnaround since I assumed its presidency in February 2001," Cunanan said in a statement. "Thus, based on our record of the past three years, the PNOC is projected to continue making a substantial profit this year."

Cunanan issued the statement in response to erroneous reports that the PNOC will end up with a P1.4 billion loss in 2004 and would be among the "top money losers" of the government this year.

From 2001-2003, COA records show that the PNOC remitted a total of P1.804 billion to the government, of which P793.9 million was collected by the National Treasury last year alone.

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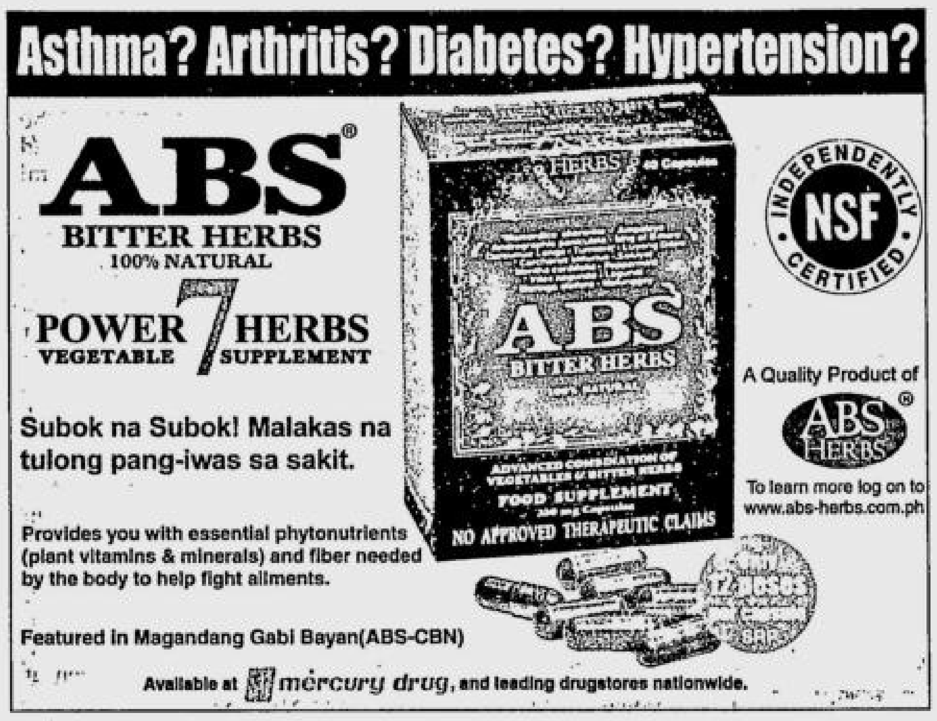
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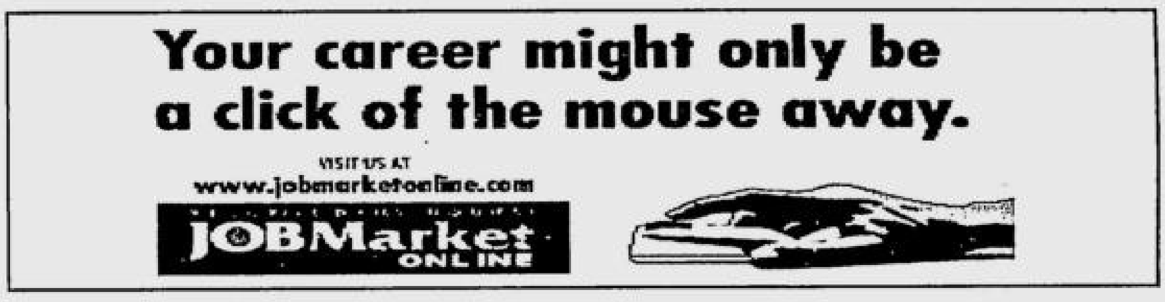
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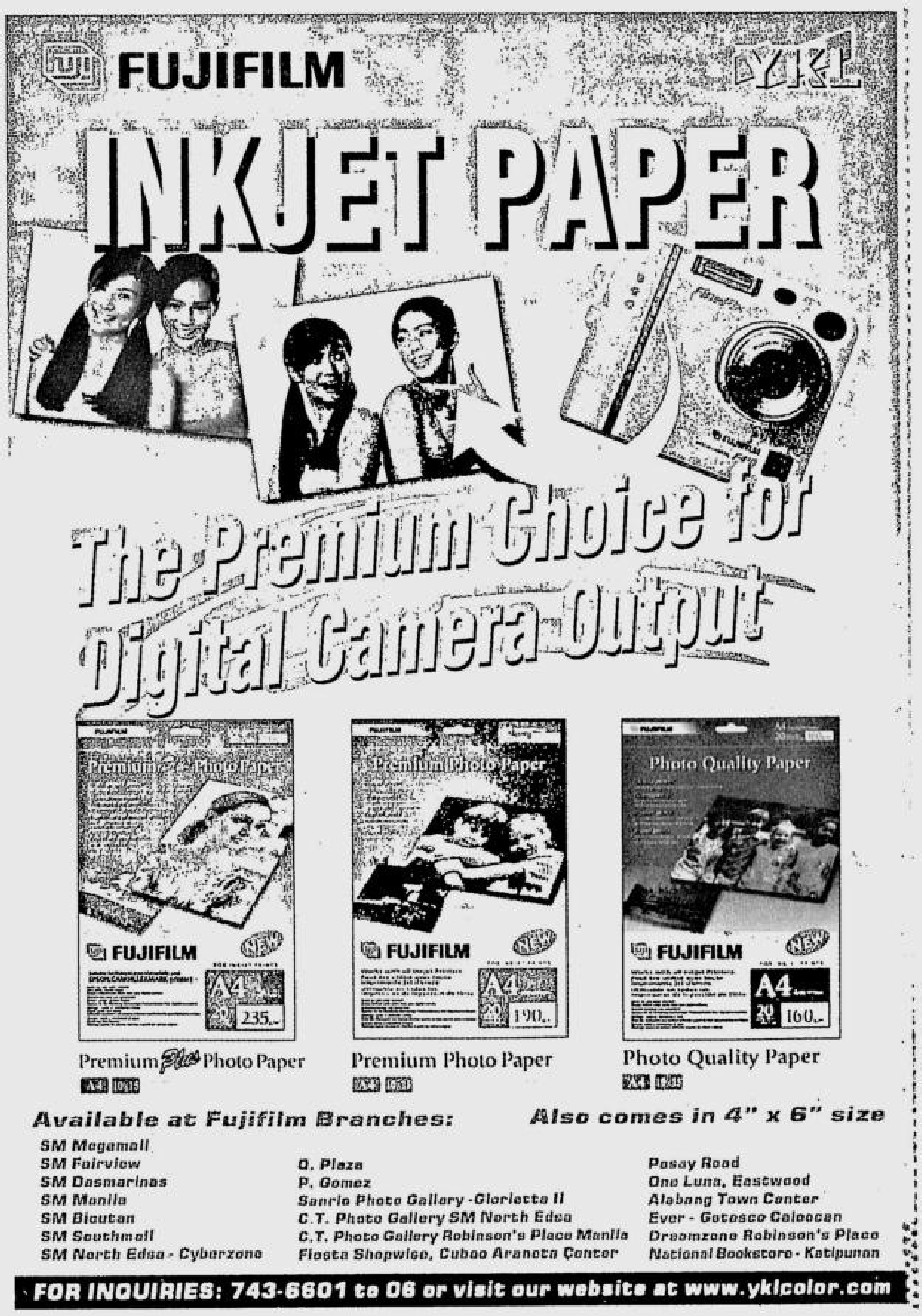
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Ferrer says he earned ire of syndicate after filing 1,023 cases

FORMER Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. said yesterday that the filing of criminal and administrative cases by the Presidential Task Force 156 against members of a syndicate operating in the Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs earned him the ire of these people.

Ferrer said he led in the filing of the 1,023 criminal cases against some of the bigwigs in the finance department as alternate chair of PTF 156.

"It is the biggest number of criminal cases filed against the high-ranking officials of the finance department for violation of anti-graft and corrupt practices and falsification of public documents in support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-corruption drive," he said in a statement after he stepped down as finance undersecretary and alternate chair of the task force.

Ferrer said members of the syndicate had defrauded the government of P1.6 billion.

He said the cases were filed by the task force with the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as those involved in the tax scam were big private companies with links to people in the DOF, BOC and BIR.

Ferrer said PTF 156 should not be blamed for the dismissal of collection cases being handled by the BIR and BOC.

"It is the BIR and the BOC which have the exclusive jurisdiction to litigate the collection cases against those involved in the tax credit scam. Harmonizing the provision of Executive Order No. 156 as amended by EO 38 with the National Internal Revenue Code and the Tariff and Customs Code, the task force's role is merely to investigate and gather evidence against those involved in the tax credit scam," Ferrer said.

Usec on top of tax credit cases quits

From page A1

this week.

Figueroa said Monday she was returning to the private sector and denied speculation that she quit because of policy differences with other finance officials over the government's borrowings.

Ferrer said he had asked Amatong to relieve him of his duties as finance undersecretary and alternate chair of the Special Presidential Task Force 156.

He said he merely reiterated his offer to resign as he had turned in resignation letters dated Feb. 26 and May 19 this year for his two positions.

"I resigned out of *delicadeza* ... on the grounds based on various newspaper reports that my integrity as a member of the task force is being questioned," Ferrer told Sen. Joker Arroyo, who had asked the finance undersecretary about reports that he had stepped down.

But Ferrer assured Arroyo that he would make himself available to the senator's blue ribbon committee.

The committee though may be closing its investigation of the task force's prosecution of the P5.3-billion tax credit scam.

Arroyo said he was giving Ferrer until this weekend to decide whether the latter wanted to say anything more about the task force's performance.

Ferrer told reporters that he had asked to be relieved of his duties as co-chair of the task force in February after reports of accusations against him came out.

He was apparently referring to reports that he had tried to extort money from Felix Chingkoe, brother of Faustino Chingkoe, the alleged mastermind in the tax credit scam.

"While I totally and completely deny all the fabrications and lies hurled against me by one of those involved in the tax credit scam, I believe that my resignation as alternate chairman will dissipate the situation created by the media attacks against the task force," Ferrer said in a statement issued by the Department of Finance.

Burning witnesses

The SPTF is being accused of burning witnesses when it tagged as suspects people who acted as vital witnesses to several cases of tax credit fraud.

It is criticized for naming people in the One-Stop Shop Duty and Credit Drawback Center (OSS), namely OSS executive director Ernesto Hiansen, and members Marlene Marquez and Philip Santiago, as tax credit scam suspects.

The three are essential witnesses to several cases included in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam because of the nature of their work. Hiansen acts as head of the OSS, while Marquez is directly involved in the processing of tax credit. Santiago serves as the keeper of records.

The OSS is a unit of the Department of Finance that is tasked with processing application for tax credits.

Dirty work

Felix Chingkoe, also a vital witness to tax credit fraud cases, earlier asked Malacañang to sack Ferrer, saying the SPTF is doing dirty work.

"The President should kick out Ferrer without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges against him. By kicking Ferrer out of government, the President will send signal that she is serious in instituting a sense of morality in government service," Felix Chingkoe earlier said.

In response to accusations that the task force compromised its witnesses, SPTF Executive Director Alan Ventura said his office could not be faulted for adding Hiansen, Marquez and Santiago to the list of suspects because the SPTF had evidence showing that they appeared to have participation in the tax scam.

He said the OSS members should be held responsible for allowing the use of fake tax credits.

"If a murderer becomes a witness to another murder cases, will it be proper for that person to be immune from his case just because he is a witness?" said Ventura, defending the move of the SPTF to include the three in its investigation reports submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman. *With a report from AP*

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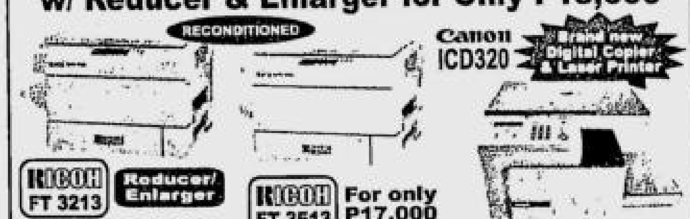

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Enrile blows top over 'guide questions'

From page A1

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday scolded an official of Special Presidential Task Force 156 who reportedly tried to tell members of the Senate blue ribbon committee what questions to ask.

At the resumption of what might have been the committee's last hearing on accusations of dismal performance against the presidential body, Enrile blew his top at Alan Ventura, task force executive director.

The senator said the clarifications that Ventura forwarded to the committee chair, Sen. Joker Arroyo, had included a three-page section titled "Suggested Questions for Interpellation by Administration Senators."

Enrile said Arroyo had given him a copy of Ventura's briefing paper dated Aug. 23.

"Is that the way you treat elected senators belonging to the administration, that you suggest to them the kinds of questions that you want them to ask you?" Enrile chided Ventura, who testified yesterday.

"I've been in the Senate for 12 years ... and this is the first time that somebody had the temerity like you to suggest questions to a senator, to members of the administration in this chamber in connection with a matter that involves your organization."

He was unstoppable: "What [makes you think] you can do this, unless you had a previous understanding with the members of the Senate on this? Or you are being instructed to control them or suggest to them the kind of questions that they have to bring out so that you can answer them nicely?"

Expectedly, Ventura denied this was his intent. The task force merely wanted to help the senators, he said. The suggested questions were meant "to serve as a guide so that the inquiry could be expedited."

He would not be stopped, either: "Our intention really is to help the senators concerned [get] a better idea of the situation considering their voluminous work."

Enrile was not impressed. Instead, he demanded that Ventura resign from the task force, "because you are a discredit to public service."

Sen. Manuel Villar, the only administration lawmaker present, cracked up the audience when he denied having received a copy of Ventura's unfortunate letter. He was just there to take his lunch, Villar said.

The task force was set up in 1999 to go after people behind the scam involving fraudulently acquired tax credit certificates.

As in the first hearing last week, the task force officials found themselves clearly on the defensive.

Enrile and Arroyo once again interrogated Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr., task force co-chair, this time on what the special body had done with the results of an investigation that he himself had ordered on the remaining companies of alleged scam mastermind Faustino Chingkoe. The probe results were given to Ferrer two years ago.

Arroyo reminded Ferrer that the investigating team led by lawyer Luis Ma. Uranza submitted its report on Aug. 8, 2002. The report included evidence against Chingkoe, Arroyo said, like checks and records of bank deposits.

Ferrer said he reviewed the documents and forwarded them to the task force executive committee, which decided that "there were some evidence not yet available."

Then he revealed that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had asked Malacañang to extend the life of the task force, which was to expire on Oct. 7.

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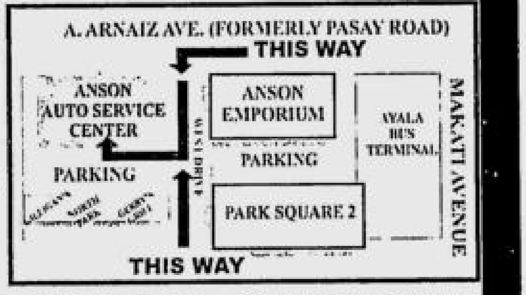

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   a. **For Robinsons Supermarket & Big R Supercenter:** Every P300 in a single receipt purchase, cash or charge, inclusive of P150 worth of participating SMC products or five (5) SMC products. A maximum of 20 raffle coupons can be issued per transaction.

   b. **For MINISTOP:** A minimum of P60 in a single receipt purchase, cash, inclusive of two (2) participating SMC products.

2. **For Robinsons Supermarket & Big R Supercenter:** Simply fill out the entry portion of the raffle coupon with your complete name, address, and contact numbers and affix your signature. Drop at designated drop boxes at participating outlets.
   For MINISTOP: Simply write your complete name, address, and contact numbers with your signature at the back of your receipt. Drop at designated drop box.

3. For deadline of submission of entries, draw dates and draw venues, please see details below.

For Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter:

Entries dropped within	Deadline of submission of entries (at store's closing hour)	Draw	Draw Date	Draw Venues	# of units to be given away
Sept. 1 - Oct. 1	Oct. 1	First	Oct. 4	Robinsons CDO (VisMin entries) Robinsons Galleria (GMA entries) Robinsons Place Dasmariñas (Luzon entries)	3 units L300 PET
Oct. 2 - Nov. 5	Nov. 5	Second	Nov. 8	Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (Luzon entries) Robinsons Place Novaliches (GMA Enries)	2 units L300 PET
Nov. 6 - Nov. 30	Nov. 30	Grand Draw	Dec. 4	Robinsons Metroeast (nationwide entries)	4 units L300 PET

For MINISTOP:

Entries dropped within	Deadline of submission of entries	Draw	Draw Date	Draw Venues	Prizes to be given away
Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Nov. 30 (12 midnight)	Grand Draw	Dec. 10	MINISTOP Head Office	1 unit L300 PET 450 SMC giftpacks worth P500 each

4. Every Saturday for the entire duration of the promo at selected participating Robinsons Supermarket/Big R Supercenter outlets, qualified customers can proceed to the customer service counter to pick a prize from a fishbowl to get a chance to win an instant prize from SMC after completing the purchase requirement.

5. For the schedule of the Pick-A-Prize Activity in Robinsons Supermarkets and Big R Supercenters, please see next table.

CLUSTER 1		Schedule of Draw (Every Saturday)	No. of Winners
Robinsons	Congressional Galleria Eastwood	Sept. 4 Oct. 9 Nov. 13	900
Big R	Novaliches Cainta Metro East		

CLUSTER 2		Schedule of Draw (Every Saturday)	No. of Winners
Robinsons	Malabon Caloocan Tutuban Ermita Avenida	Sept. 11 Oct. 16 Nov. 20	600

CLUSTER 3		Schedule of Draw (Every Saturday)	No. of Winners
Robinsons	Imus Sta. Rosa Los Baños	Sept. 18 Oct. 23 Nov. 27	750
Big R	Sta. Rosa Dasmariñas		

CLUSTER 4		Schedule of Draw (Every Saturday)	No. of Winners
Robinsons	Metropolis Angeles Nepomall	Sept. 25 Oct. 23	500
Big R	San Fernando Lipa Dagupan		

CLUSTER 5		Schedule of Draw (Every Saturday)	No. of Winners
Robinsons	Bacolod Cebu Iloilo	Oct. 2 Nov. 6	400
Big R	Cagayan De Oro		

6. As consolation prizes during the Grand Raffle draw, 3 winners per MINISTOP outlet will receive P500-worth of SMC gift packs each. There will be approximately 450 winners total.

7. Raffle participants may only win once per draw.

8. This promo is valid for shoppers at Robinsons Supermarket, Big R Supercenter and MINISTOP.

9. The Grand Draw for Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter, under the supervision of a BFAD representative, will be held on December 4, 2004 Saturday, 4pm at Robinsons Supermarket - Metro East, Don Mariano Marcos Ave., Cainta, Rizal.

10. The Grand Draw for MINISTOP, under the supervision of a BFAD representative, will be held on December 10, 2004 Friday, 2pm at the MINISTOP Head Office, 2/F CFC Bldg., Pasig Boulevard, Pasig City.

11. Grand Draw winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. They must claim their prize upon presentation of the registered mail, the claim stub, a valid ID and TIN.

12. Names of winners will be posted at all participating grocery outlets.

13. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.

14. All employees, tenants, suppliers and concessionaires of San Miguel Corporation, Robinsons Supermarket, Big R Supercenter, MINISTOP and involved agencies including relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

15. Prizes not claimed after 60 days will be forfeited.

16. Promo winners of the Miitsubishi L300 PET model will shoulder the 20% prize tax. Prizes are non-convertible to cash.

17. Promo period is from September 1 to November 30, 2004.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0868 Series of 2004

Gov't workers press for ₱3,000 wage increase

From page A1

plan to do away with certain GOCCs would hit the rank and file hardest.

"It's like putting innocent employees on death row for the heinous crimes of these officials," he said. "If there's anybody who should go, it should be [the latter]."

In Baguio City, members of Courage and of workers unions of National Power Corp. told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that they would fight to protect their jobs amid the government's efforts to cut costs and contain the huge budget deficit.

They said they all expected to be "sacrificed soon" by the government "to set an example." They also accused the Napocor board of directors of not being transparent about the "table of organization" identifying those supposedly to be retrenched by December.

Ces Peta, coordinator of Courage in the Cordillera, also warned that the streamlining measures of local governments could raise to 1.5 million the number of workers to be terminated within five years.

Baguio is undertaking its own reorganization plan that involves the merging of four local departments into one environment office. This plan threatens the jobs of about 300 city employees.

"We anticipate that the government will call us unpatriotic for pursuing a P3,000 [pay increase] and seeking the retention of government agencies," Peta said. "But we are fighting for our survival."

'Deceptive' plan

According to Peta, Malacañang is preparing to dissolve certain GOCCs now that Congress is scrutinizing the executives' salaries and allowances.

But the government's plan to solve the deficit is "deceptive" because Malacañang is targeting agencies that previous administrations had scheduled for privatization, she said.

She described GOCCs as viable assets that could earn the government a hefty profit to cover part of the deficit.

Peta said Malacañang had listed Napocor, National Food Authority and other agencies like Land Bank of the Philippines among those targeted in 2000 under a privatization plan that "never took off."

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's first term, the NFA employees union was able to block a directive dissolving the agency in accordance with the terms of the Asian Development Bank loan for the grains sector development program.

As for Napocor, a Baguio-based union member said it had been told to cut its workforce by 300 even before the budget deficit triggered a controversy.

"Congress has been attacking Napocor [for its huge payroll and retirement package, which increased its debts]. But it [was silent] when Napocor violated our tenure. [We] fought that retirement package because we were retrenched and then rehired for the same positions but for a substantial pay cut," the union member said.

Gov't not powerless

Gaite said it was not enough for Malacañang to appeal to the sense of *delicadeza* of GOCC executives.

He said that Malacañang was "not powerless," and that what was needed was "the will to correct these glaring inequities."

"It can start now by trimming the excess [pay of GOCC executives] and adjusting the pay of the rank-and-file employees," he said.

Figures provided by Courage showed that the average government employee receives an average gross pay of P8,709 (or the civil service salary grade 10). An entry-level employee (salary grade 1) receives P5,082.

These salaries are subject to mandatory deductions such as withholding tax, Government Service Insurance System premiums, and Pag-Ibig and PhilHealth contributions.

According to government estimates, a family of six in Metro Manila needs at least P16,000 a month to survive.

Government employees are pushing for a ₱3,000 across-the-board nationwide salary increase. Courage said that the last salary adjustment was done in 2001 and that the effect of the 5-percent raise was hardly felt.

"To pay government executives huge salaries is not illegal. In fact, these positions, considered the juiciest, were awarded to the most loyal supporters of the President," Gaite said.

"But what is legal may not necessarily be moral," he said.

Public service

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said Ms Arroyo's austerity program would amount to nothing if Malacañang did not rationalize the pay of GOCC executives.

"The bottom line is these officials should be taught better understanding of the meaning of public service," TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said in a statement.

Aguilar suggested that GOCCs incorporate in their annual reports the "fat checks" and perks received by their executives and submit these to public scrutiny.

"This will hopefully make them think better and prevent them from abusing the powers of their offices," he said.

The TUCP also urged Congress to pass a law that would set limits on the salaries of GOCC executives. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

Despondent athlete commits suicide

From page A1

bodies—and their government.

Sleepless nights

Renato Ibañez, 21, said his brother was a quiet man who kept his problems to himself.

"But he changed after his allowance was cut off. He was giving money to my mother," the younger Ibañez said in Filipino. The allowance, he said, "had come from the Philippine Sports Commission."

An uncle, Ricardo Olimpo, said the runner/cyclist resorted to drinking beer four days before the suicide.

"He became sullen and started visiting friends he had not seen for a long time. He drank because he said he could not sleep," Olimpo told the INQUIRER.

Trained to hang on

In a separate suicide note addressed to the San Pedro Team Unified Sports Association (SPTUSA), a multi-sports team of which he had been a member since 1998, Ibañez also asked for forgiveness.

"He said that he hoped we could find somebody to take his place," said Anchoriz, the SPTUSA president.

Triathlon national team coach and SPTUSA founder Abelardo "Abet" Alon-alon said the team was stunned by the suicide.

"His suicide made us angry and confused," Alon-alon said. "As a triathlete, he was trained to hurdle challenges. Then he gave up?"

Five days before he took his life, a spirited Ibañez had joined the Laguna Day sports festival and had even won fourth place. He was to have left for Singapore yesterday for the Desaru International Triathlon competition.

A 'gutsy man'

Ibañez, along with Alon-alon and top triathletes Alvin Alindogan and Bing Alto, represented the country in the Macau International Triathlon in November 2003. Competing twice in December last year, he won the 7-km trail run in Boracay and was third overall in the Tour of Laguna duathlon.

Anchoriz said Ibañez was also "gutsy." In 2002, Ibañez, a high school graduate who could barely speak English, traveled to Taiwan alone to represent the country in the triathlon competition.

Three Filipino triathletes had backed out because of the SARS outbreak at that time.

"Pokong is a big loss to Philippine sports. He could have been the country's bet in international duathlon," Alon-alon said.

"Pokong was a natural duathlete," said Tom Carrasco, president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP). Given more training and attention, he "could still be developed," Carrasco added.

Blown chances

Carrasco said Ibañez had the talent to win a place in the national duathlon team, which is to compete for the first time in the Asian Games to be held in 2006 in Doha, Qatar.

At the time of his death, Ibañez was ranked fourth in the Philippines in duathlon, an endurance sport consisting of running and cycling over long distances exceeding 40 km.

Prior to his ranking in duathlon, Ibañez had also been part of a pool of trainees with potentials for inclusion in the national team for triathlon, a more strenuous sport which consists of swimming, biking and running, also over long distances.

In February, the TRAP underwent a realignment of its athletes in preparation for the SEA Games in 2005 and the Asian Games in 2006. Deemed "weak" in swimming, Ibañez was transferred to the run-bike-run or duathlon event because "that was where his strength lay," Alon-alon said.

Team spirit

Carrasco said members of the training pool for triathlon and duathlon do not get allowances from the PSC. It is TRAP, which is partly subsidized by the PSC, which handles the expenses during the trainees' bikeout qualifying competitions and even during foreign competitions.

Carrasco said that, until February this year, the members of the national triathlon team were each receiving a P7,000 monthly allowance from the PSC. As gesture of camaraderie, most national team members shared their monthly allowances with the "trainees," like Ibañez, who was already a full-time athlete.

Then came the blow

It was an informal arrangement welcomed by TRAP.

"We encourage this (sharing) because it fosters team spirit," Carrasco said.

When the allowances were discontinued in February because of the PSC's cost-cutting measures, Ibañez was left to scrounge for funds, taking part in local competitions for the prize money.

With his winnings and with a meager support from the SPTUSA, he struggled along.

"We helped any way we can, like providing spare parts to keep his bike in tip-top condition," Anchoriz said.

A good bike allowed Ibañez to join competitions and win. A BMX enthusiast as a teenager, Ibañez shared his winnings with his mother, who had been diagnosed with an enlarged heart. His father, Perfecto, was jobless, while another sister is in high school.

Another sister stays at home to assist their ailing mother, said younger brother Renato, who himself works as a helper at a subdivision here.

The price of love

Ibañez also earned a little money doing the work of a "masseur" for SPTUSA members.

The SPTUSA shouldered his entry fees during competitions, which ranged from P250 to as high as P1,500. Alon-alon said endurance athletes, like Ibañez, burned a lot of energy. "That's why we (in SPTUSA) were always feeding him," he said.

In May, Ibañez worked at a construction site in Tagaytay, cycling the distance from San Pedro to Tagaytay and back, every day. It was a temporary job.

In San Pedro, he kept an apartment with Rose, his live-in partner.

The presence of Rose in his life had "complicated" things as Ibañez now had to share his income with her, Renato said. "They stopped his allowance because he already had a live-in partner," the younger brother said.

After the suicide, Rose went home to Quezon. The couple was childless.

Gov't support dwindling

But Alon-Alon, a three-time national triathlon champion and member of the national swimming team for years, said having a live-in partner was never a ground for stopping an athlete's allowance.

"The truth is that government support for triathlon has been dwindling in the past years," Alon-alon said.

He said trainees used to receive each a P3,500 monthly allowance, but this was discontinued sometime last year. The national team's allowances were cut off in February this year.

"So, what's next?" Alon-alon said.

Carrasco confirmed the stoppage of the allowances. He said only medalists from the 2003 SEA Games received monthly allowances.

Personal problems

But Carrasco also said that Ibañez's performance had been deteriorating these past months.

Early this year, he said, Ibañez failed to make it to the top three in the duathlon qualifying competition held at Clark.

"His personal problems were already affecting his performance," Carrasco said.

Alon-alon said it was SOP for athletes and coaches to meet at least once a month, besides the usual post-event assessments, mostly to discuss their performances. Personal problems were never discussed.

Ibañez kept to himself whatever emotional turmoil he might have had.

"*Hindi mo halata. Si Pokong kasi, masaya or malungkot, iisa lang sa kanya yon* (You won't sense it with Pokong. Whether he was happy or sad, it was all the same with him, outwardly)," Alon-alon said.

An omen

Ibañez's uncle, Olimpo, said his nephew had planned the suicide.

"He was seen washing his long-sleeved white polo shirt and he told his friends it was for his wake," Olimpo told the INQUIRER.

Spending the night with friends in Nabitac, Laguna, on the eve of the June 19 Laguna Day sports festival, Ibañez appeared to be in good spirits.

"He was clowning around," Olimpo recalled.

From June 20 to 23, Ibañez started visiting friends he had not seen for sometime. He also started drinking beer, the uncle said.

At 10 a.m. on June 24, Renato found his brother dead in his room.

The suicide notes were undated.

We have become 'people of the lie'

From page A1

last December. It made me realize that we are made to swallow a daily dose of hypocrisy from our politicians and their hangers-on. Thus we have become, as psychiatrist and author Scott Peck puts it, "people of the lie."

My daughter Kaye was running her second SEA Games race. The five-member ladies cycling team was barely 5 months old. Only two, Marita del Rosario and Baby Marites Bitbit, were original cyclists. The rest—Ani Karina de Leon, Lakambini Alto and Kaye, or Catherine—were triathletes who had been persuaded to shift to cycling, since there was no triathlon event that year.

The team had no illusions of winning. They only wanted the experience and a decent finish. They got both, except Bing, who had gotten caught in a spill started by a Thai competitor. She came in last, but to a thunderous ovation from the crowds lining the street.

I was in tears as I met each one of them at the finish line. They had undergone but a few months of grueling training, and yet performed beyond expectations.

The Philippine contingent won a few medals—a gold in the men's mountain biking event for Eboy Quiñones; another gold in judo for Gilbert Ramirez; two silvers in the men's road race and individual time trial for Warren Davadilla and Victor Espiritu; and two bronzes in the women's and men's mountain biking for Marites Bitbit and Eric Feliciano.

I could not watch all the events since the venues were scattered. Some, like basketball, were even held in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Nevertheless, I heard a lot of praise for our sportsmen.

One story came from my friend Vic Lecaros, our ambassador to Vietnam, who recounted how the Filipinos in the audience had to sing "Bayang Magiliw" *a cappela* during the awarding ceremonies for judo, because the wrong anthem was played. "We sang at the top of our lungs," Lecaros said. "I never felt so patriotic in my life."

Sob stories

Unfortunately, I witnessed more frustrations than victories.

Our athletes were treated shabbily by our own officials there. After the games, the Vietnamese organizers made sure we encountered no problems leaving Hanoi by assisting us through the very last X-ray machine at the airport. In contrast, Philippine sports officials hurried past the athletes and coaches with nary a smile to queue up for business-class seats.

These officials had stayed in hotels in the city while the athletes were herded into student dormitories at four to five persons per room. In the building where my daughter stayed, two fellow female cyclists had to sleep on the floor in the corridor!

The Air Vietnam attendants were all warm and helpful through the flight from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. Not a word about the athletes' oversized and overweight bags. It was at the Philippine Airlines desk at the HCM International Airport, Manila-bound at last, that we got the cold shoulder.

A PAL official admonished the athletes for the size of their luggage. Explanations that they. were cyclists carrying bikes, bike tires, etc., on top of their personal effects fell on deaf ears. The athletes and coaches had to pay for the extra weight.

The flight took off late, and arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport also late by almost two hours. It was past 11 p.m., but the athletes were instructed to change into their team uniforms. "For the media," the coaches said, obviously anticipating some sort of welcome.

Never mind the media, there wasn't a single government official in sight at Naia. A man stood just outside immigration, handing out sampaguita garlands to the "returning heroes."

Last hurdle was the baggage carousel. After 40 minutes, not one of us had collected a single bag. Lo and behold! They had all been left behind in Ho Chi Minh City, including those for which overweight fees had been paid. The PAL staff was only half-apologetic.

The experience left me sleepless for many days, mainly out of complete disgust for the shabby treatment given the athletes and coaches. Obviously, government officials and media organizations did not think these athletes deserved the same treatment accorded the likes of Manny Pacquiao and American singer Mandy Moore!

It amazes me how it escapes media that many athletes do not receive the allowances that the government purportedly gives them. It is about time we trashed the "medals" mentality that promotes the stupid mindset that only athletes with a string of successes are worth watching out for. No wonder the bench in Philippine sports is so shallow.

Some athletes point to the huge disparity in the salaries of foreign and local coaches. Sports officials justify this by citing the foreigners' "tremendous expertise." But what good would that be if there are no more athletes to train?

Tearful testimony

On the flight back to Manila, I sat with a young man who told me what it was like to be a national athlete. A private in the Philippine Army who has won silver medals, he receives a P9,000 allowance on top of his Army salary of about P12,000. Not bad, one might say, for a single person who has no family to support. But for one who needs expensive nutritious food to stay fit?

He said he ate sardines six times a day to meet his protein requirements. Imported food supplements? Forget it.

I asked if he had gone sightseeing in Hanoi. "No", he said, because he had not brought warm clothes, not even a jacket. Couldn't he have bought one with the $300 personal allowance from GMA? He said he would rather save the money.

He was under heavy pressure to quit cycling and join his brother on a cruise ship, he told me. He figured he could make triple his present earnings if he went on that ship, but no, he said, he loved the sport too much.

He recently won in the Tour of Luzon, he said, and used the prize money to buy a bike that cost about P130,000. Unfortunately, a car rammed into the new bike during a road accident. He wasn't hurt, but the bike was irreparable.

It took months before the insurance company paid him back. His training suffered because he had to find extra work. I asked if he tried to seek help from the PSC. He said there was no such assistance to be expected.

My niece, Sandra Araullo, is another serious athlete in the family. She has been seeded No. 1 in the under-23 category of the ladies triathlon in the whole of Southeast Asia. Her parents spent huge portions of their savings for her expensive gear and training in New Zealand last summer.

Like all members of our national training pool, Sandra is entitled to an allowance. She was receiving P3,225 a month until April. Actually, she was entitled to P7,500. Where did the other half go? To her fellow athlete who hanged himself. "Had I known," Sandra told me in great sorrow, "I would have gladly given him all of it."

A recent newspaper headline story announced the First Couple's "full support" for athletes bound for the 2005 SEA Games. Let's hope this doesn't turn out to be another lie that we have to live with.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo addresses the 13th Mindanao Business Conference in Davao City on Thursday.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

GMA asks top 50,000 taxpayers to pay ₱1M more

From page A1

their leader," she said.

"I know the pain of suffering the brunt of public disappointment and displeasure. I am not a stranger to unpopularity. But I cannot shirk from the responsibility of prescribing the bitter pill," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said her admission that the country was in serious fiscal crisis was right.

"It is my duty to bring forth the truth and reality we must all face today, that our economy cannot endure for long without getting more revenues from those who can most afford it," she said.

Ms Arroyo's appeal to the top taxpayers came with a warning to tax cheats: "The unpatriotic who engage in corporate and governmental corruption will be identified, publicized, punished. The time for avoiding taxes is over."

Friendly persuasion

But she said her administration was prepared to begin by using friendly persuasion.

"(O)ur friendly persuasion will consist in inviting the top 50,000 corporate and individual taxpayers to add a million pesos more to what they are paying in a bid to have a strong start," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said this was the time of shared goals and shared burdens. "I am proud of the Filipinos who have shown a deeper sense of community starting from the alumni of Silliman University in Negros Oriental who donated their jewelry in their homecoming followed by government employees of several agencies," she said.

She also thanked businessmen and overseas Filipino workers who wanted to donate to the "Bayanihan Fund" and to members of Congress who are willing to let go of their pork barrel.

Paring of expenditures

The President said the country needed to raise more than P180 billion through prudent paring of expenditures, better plug on financial leaks, and more rational equitable and effective system of collecting revenues.

She said that apart from the tax measures aimed at generating P80 billion, the government was working on "executive reforms" to raise or save P100 billion, "marking the start of our earnest journey to permanent economic stability."

"The money raised from new revenues must be spent wisely that's why government is working to wipe out waste," she said.

Ms Arroyo said she had been reading the fine print in the budgets of the departments of public works, transportation and education to ensure that they prioritize the construction of roads, ports and school buildings.

"Fiscal discipline, austerity, rationalization—these are the bywords in the Cabinet," she said.

"As for the GOCCs, they are being pruned and whipped into line," she added.

Limit borrowing

She said the government could not resort to more borrowings to finance its infrastructure and basic services programs.

"And Napocor (National Power Corp.) in particular cannot keep borrowing and borrowing to provide the electric power needed to support our growth requirements," she said.

The President said the country continued to have access to local and foreign financial markets, indicating investor confidence remains.

"But it doesn't mean that we should grab all the offers of those who are lending to us because every borrowing we make is an increase in our deficit," she said.

"Every expenditure financed by borrowing is a contribution to increasing our deficit and we cannot grow based on borrowed funds all the time. Because it will catch up with us, the interest payment will catch up with us. The day will come as it is coming that we are using our budget to pay interest rather than to build infrastructure, roads, ports and airports and other requirements like power plants," she said. *Reports from Dennis Jay C. Santos, Germelina A. Lacorte and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila*

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BMW 316i 2003 Titanium Silver, 17,875km, P1,525,000 30% down, 24 months	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Oxford Green, 26,000km, P2,150,000 30% down, 24 months	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Orient Blue, 7,043km, P2,250,000 25% down, 24 months	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 3,500km, P2,250,000 25% down, 24 months	**BMW 325i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 13,701km, P2,650,000 30% down, 18 months

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BMW 320i 1997 Boston Green, 57,534km, P780,000	**BMW 523i** 1997 Glacier Green, 116,842km, P1,050,000	**BMW 523i** 1997 Alpine White, 26,744km, P1,500,000	

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

2 Americans, Briton kidnapped in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Gunmen kidnapped two Americans and a Briton from a house in the heart of the Iraqi capital Thursday, the interior ministry and witnesses said.

The three were seized from a two-story house surrounded by a wall in Baghdad's al-Mansour neighborhood at dawn, said Col. Adnan Abdel-Rahman, a ministry official. Rahman had initially said the three were all British nationals.

He said they were employed by Gulf Services Co., a Middle East-based construction firm.

A US Embassy spokesperson speaking on condition of anonymity could not immediately confirm the report but said officials were investigating. A British diplomat in Baghdad was also unable to confirm any details.

A police official who asked that his name not be used said a car was missing from the house where the hostages were believed to have been kidnapped. He said the three were apparently in the garden when the attack took place and that there was no sign of any fighting.

Neighbors said they heard two vehicles drive up to the house around dawn and later noticed that the normally closed sliding iron gate was open, so they called the police. They declined to give their names and said they didn't know exactly who was living there.

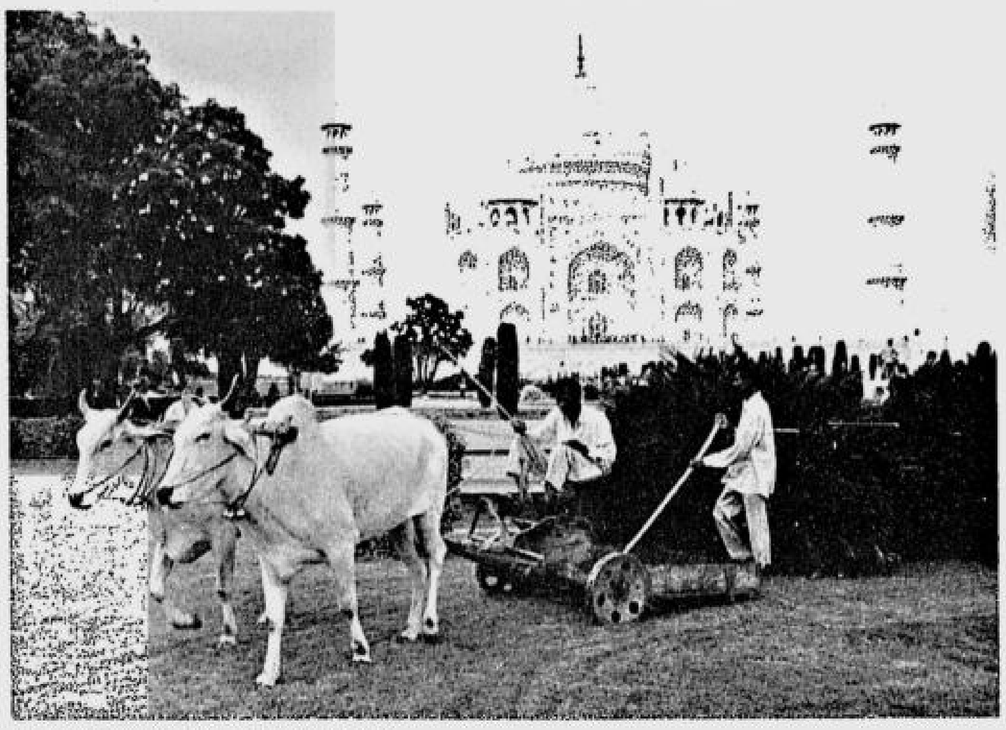
Several foreign contracting companies and security firms are based in the relatively wealthy al-Mansour neighborhood.

Insurgents waging a 17-month insurgency in Iraq have kidnapped more than 100 foreigners in a bid to destabilize the interim authorities and drive coalition forces from the country. Many have been executed.

At least four Westerners are currently being held hostage in Iraq.

Two Italian women, Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, both 29, were abducted Sept. 7 by armed men from their offices in central Baghdad. They were working on school and water projects for the aid group "Un Ponte Per ..." ("A Bridge To..."). There is no word on their fate.

Two French reporters, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were kidnapped last month by a militant group that demanded France rescind a ban on the wearing of head scarves in public schools. Paris refused and the law has already gone into effect. *AP*



ENDURING WORLD WONDER
Indian gardeners use oxen to cut grass in front of the Taj Mahal in the tourist city of Agra, Sept. 16. India is preparing to celebrate later in the month the 350th anniversary of the Taj Mahal, the 17th-century marble mausoleum built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for his wife. REUTERS

EMOTIONAL MOMENT
Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, cries during his speech where he was remembering meeting with members of the Japanese community in Brazil, at the Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sept. 15. Brazil is home to one of the largest Japanese communities outside Japan, estimated at 1.4 million. AP

Hillary on Bill's health: We feel blessed

By Marc Humbert

ALBANY, New York— Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said "we feel blessed" former President Bill Clinton's artery blockage was discovered in time for him to have successful heart bypass surgery.

"The relief is just overwhelming," she said Wednesday. The former first lady said her husband is "really doing well."

In her first extensive interview since the medical crisis began almost two weeks ago, Clinton told The Associated Press the former president is "following the orders of doctors, nurses and everyone else who told him what he should do to begin slowly gaining his strength back."

Clinton said she and daughter Chelsea are taking turns watching over his recovery "to make sure he just continues to take it easy." She said the recovery should take from six to eight weeks.

"We have been at his side literally and figuratively" since he went into the hospital Sept. 3. He had quadruple heart bypass surgery three days later and was released from New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia in New York City last Friday.

"I'm on my way back to Chappaqua right now to assume my duty," she said late Tuesday afternoon as she spoke on a cell phone, headed from Washington to Westchester County, north of New York City, where the former president is recuperating at home.

Clinton said her husband is disappointed he can't hit the campaign trail on behalf of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, but that she will try to pick up the slack.

"We had some (campaign) events we were both going to cover, that I will cover alone, and others that I will pick up," she said. "But I'm also very focused on helping our Senate candidates and a couple of House candidates."

Clinton said she knew her husband had been having "a little shortness of breath" during recent workouts.

"And, like most wives, I said, 'Why don't you go and see about it?'" she recalled Tuesday. "And he said, 'Oh, you know, I think it's just I'm not in good enough shape. I just need to work out more.'"

"And then we had the pains when he was at rest and that was the wake-up call," she said.

"The seriousness totally came out of the blue," Clinton said. "The fact that he had a problem of this significance was just not even contemplated by either of us."

"It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, which we all know now, because one of the things that I have learned is that a third of the people have heart attacks and die, and a third have a heart attack and live with some damage from that. And a third are lucky, as Bill was, to have some warning signals and be able to deal with it," she said.

The former first lady said the family was confident the surgery would go well.

"It was probably more difficult for Chelsea and me than him because he was focused and occupied on what he needed to do to get ready (for surgery) and we were the ones waiting, which, I think is in many respects a wholly separate stress," she said.

Still, Clinton said she did have some concerns when he went to the operating room.

"As he said himself when he called into (CNN's) Larry King on Friday night, you have to be a little scared," she said.

The former first lady said she had a message for everyone in the wake of the experience. *AFP*

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10 killed by Israel troops in W. Bank

NABLUS, West Bank—Ten Palestinians, including a young schoolgirl, were killed in separate Army raids in the West Bank Wednesday as Israel tightened security for the beginning of the Jewish new year holiday.

Six people, including the 11-year-old girl, were killed during an early morning offensive in the main northern city of Nablus before four militants were shot dead when special forces swooped on a garage in the nearby town of Jenin, Palestinian medical and security sources said.

The victims of the Nablus operation, four of whom were members of a group loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, were shot dead after troops had encircled a house in the Old City area.

Around 20 jeeps and tanks took part in the operation, with aerial cover from an Israeli helicopter.

"A soldier on lookout had spotted a group of armed Palestinians who then forced their way into a house owned by an 80-year-old man," the Army's regimental commander in Nablus said.

"We called on them to surrender but they refused and then tried to flee from the house, opening fire," added the colonel, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

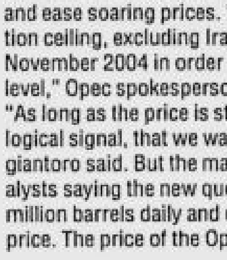
Opec tries to calm market

VIENNA—Opec declared Wednesday it would boost its official output by one million barrels per day from November in a bid to reassure the market and ease soaring prices. "The conference decided to raise the Opec production ceiling, excluding Iraq, by one million barrels per day with effect from November 2004 in order to bring prices down further to a more sustainable level," Opec spokesperson Omar Ibrahim told a news conference in Vienna. "As long as the price is still high we would like to give the signal, a psychological signal, that we want the price down," Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said. But the market was unmoved by the announcement, with analysts saying the new quota was still below Opec's real output of some 28 million barrels daily and questioning the cartel's power to impact on the price. The price of the Opec basket of seven crude oils is around $38. *AFP*

Ex-lover of Diana released

LONDON—Two months after he was arrested for suspected possession of cocaine, James Hewitt, the former lover of Princess Diana, received a caution on Wednesday for the offense. On July 21, Hewitt, 46, was arrested and detained for one day at a police station on suspicion of being in possession of cocaine outside a trendy west London wine bar. Hewitt, a former cavalry officer, was branded a "love rat" by the British press after publishing a book in which he discussed his relationship with the princess, who died in a car accident in 1997. In December 2002, Hewitt was again the subject of unfavorable publicity when he said he would sell love letters the princess had written to him during the 1991 Gulf War. *AP*

Musharraf to remain Army chief



MUSHARRAF

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf will remain the Army chief, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid announced Wednesday, even though the general had pledged he would relinquish the post this year. "I think there is no need to amend the constitution," Rashid said, dismissing demands by powerful Islamist groups that Musharraf's continuation as Army chief while remaining the president would be unconstitutional. Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in October 1999, said last year he would give up his military post by the end of December this year under a deal reached with the Islamist Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal alliance. *AFP*

Bangladesh teacher cuts students' ears

DHAKA—A teacher in northern Bangladesh cut the ears of 17 students with scissors to discipline them, news reports said Thursday. Abdul Majid Sardar, a teacher at a Muslim school in Bogra district, said he was angry with his charges because they had stopped reciting Islamic verses when he stepped out of the classroom for a stroll, the Prothom Alo and Bhorer Kagoj newspapers reported. Two of the students—aged 6 and 9—needed stitches, while 15 others received first-aid, the reports said. The school's head stopped Sardar after hearing the students' screams. Relatives of the schoolchildren also rushed in, and beat the teacher with sticks, the papers said. *AP*

UK fox hunts banned

LONDON—Supporters of fox hunting stormed Britain's parliament Wednesday and clashed with police in the streets, but failed to stop lawmakers from voting by an overwhelming margin to ban the blood sport. Debate was suspended for 30 minutes after five pro-hunt protesters, in the first incident of its kind in modern times, burst into the House of Commons chamber—the second dramatic security breach in London in three days. The five, wearing T-shirts depicting Prime Minister Tony Blair with devil's horns, were arrested—while outside, riot police with batons and tear gas kept back 10,000 furious pro-hunt demonstrators hurling bottles and fireworks. *AFP*

US names Saudi, Vietnam, Eritrea among flouters of religious freedom

WASHINGTON—The US state department for the first time named close ally Saudi Arabia as well as Eritrea and Vietnam "countries of particular concern" in its annual report on international religious freedom, released Wednesday.

It accused Riyadh of backing anti-Jewish and anti-Christian campaigns and torturing non-Muslims and accused Vietnam of pressuring ethnic-minority Protestants to recant their faith, while also beating up religious believers.

The 2004 report maintained China, Iran, Burma (also known as Myanmar), North Korea and Sudan on the list of countries of particular concern.

The governments of such countries "engaged in systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedoms," the state department said.

The United States could impose sanctions on these countries under the law, but Secretary of State Colin Powell said Washington would emphasize diplomatic efforts to influence them to change any policies that discriminate against people on the basis of their religion.

"Let me emphasize that we will continue engaging the countries of particular concern with whom we have bilateral relationships," Powell told reporters.

"Our existing partnerships have flourished in numerous capacities, and they are just one of the best ways for us to encourage our friends to adopt tolerant practices," he said.

The report also maintained China, Cuba, Laos, Burma, North Korea and Vietnam in the list of "totalitarian regimes" restricting religious freedom in their societies.

The department said that Cuba and the five Asian nations regarded some or all religious groups as enemies of the state and that the practice of religion was often seen by them as a threat to power.

The report listed Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan among the countries with "state hostility toward minority or non-approved religions."

In Bangladesh, Egypt, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Sri Lanka, there was "state neglect of societal discrimination against, or persecution of, minority religions," it said.

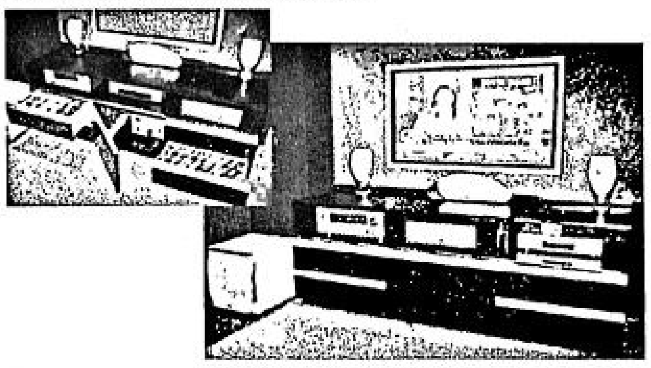
Countries with "discriminatory legislation or policies prejudicial to certain religions" were listed as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brunei, Israel, Malaysia, Moldova, Russia and Turkey.

Belgium, France and Germany were accused in the report of "denouncing certain religions by affiliating them with dangerous 'cults' or 'sects.'"

The state department said religious freedom did not exist in Saudi Arabia and alleged "ongoing denunciations of non-Muslim religions from government-sanctioned pulpits.

"There were frequent instances in which mosque preachers, whose salaries were paid by the government, used violent anti-Jewish and anti-Christian language in their sermons," it said.

Islam is the official religion in Saudi Arabia, a close ally of the United States, and "all citizens must be Muslims." *AFP*



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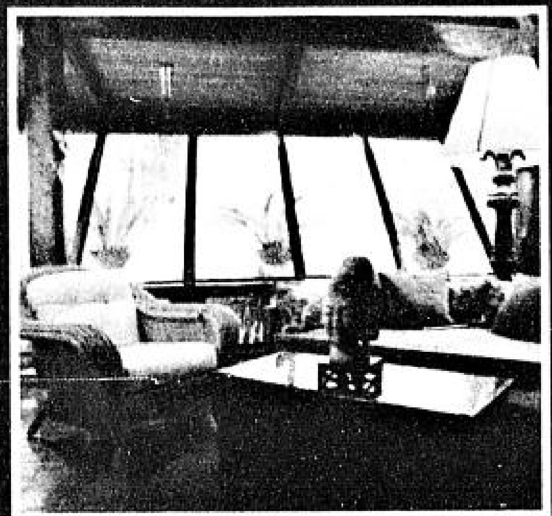

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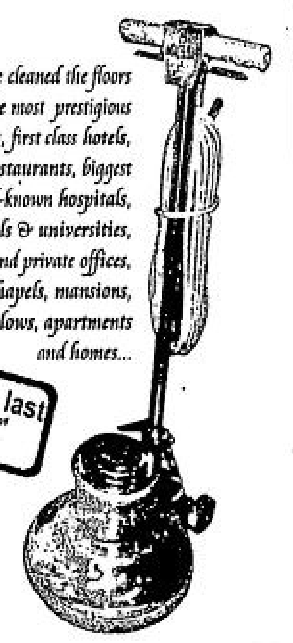

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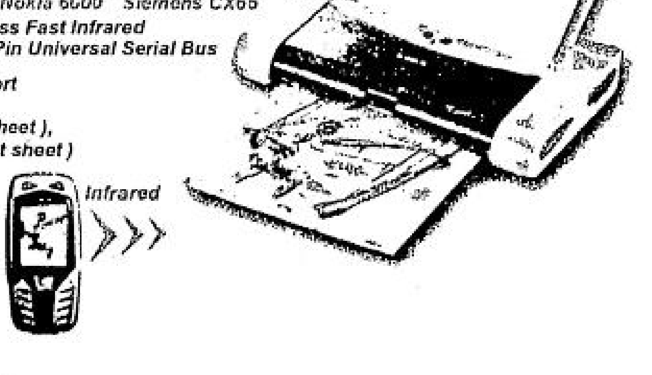

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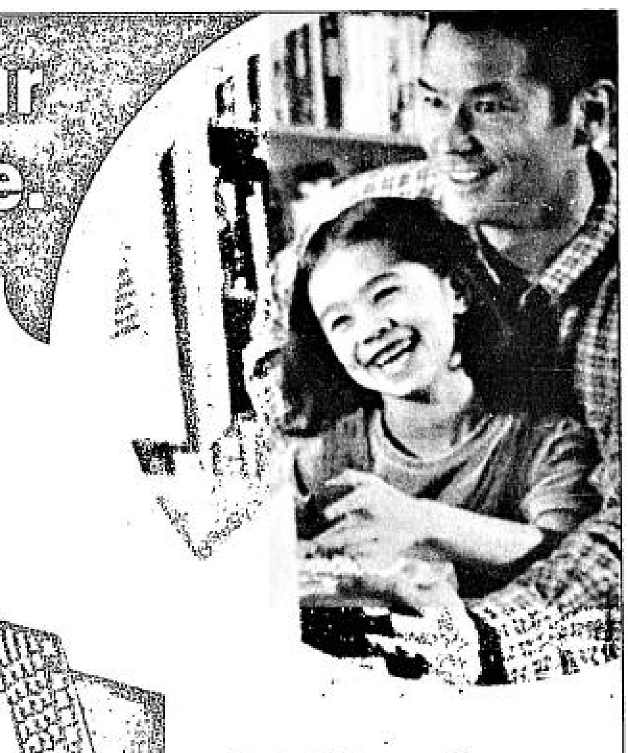

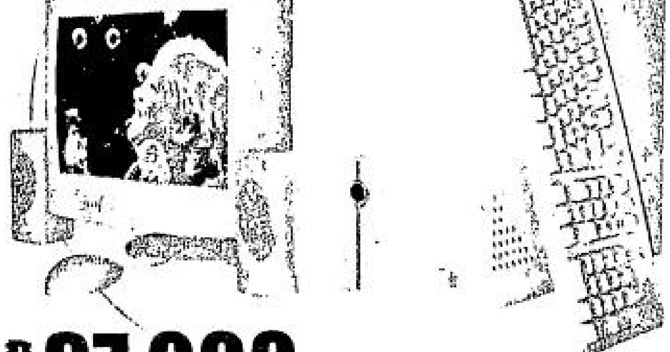

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Taxing the crisis

EDITORIAL

THE POLARIZING positions on new taxes do not augur well for the swift resolution of the fiscal crisis. The more Malacañang insists on new taxes, the more Congress becomes adamant in resisting them. The hardening on both sides may indicate the initial dramatics that usually characterizes any tax debate. Or it may show that either side has no appreciation of the rut the Philippines is in.

Whichever, the stalemate is bad for the country. There seems to be a tendency, particularly on the part of Congress, to put up stumbling blocks to any executive measure to contain the fiscal contagion by tax reform and new tax measures. While there is basis for lawmakers' calls for plugging the tax loopholes and checking the worsening indebtedness of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), the same lawmakers are notoriously issuing blanket rejection of the most minimum tax measures coming from the executive. Sen. Joker Arroyo, for one, has used hyperbole and alarmist warnings to oppose any and all new tax measures. He has said that the new taxes may bring about President Macapagal-Arroyo's downfall.

It is true that public opinion is against new taxes. A recent survey showed that 78 percent of the population is vehemently against new taxes. But lest our lawmakers use the survey results as approbation of their legislative wisdom, they should be reminded that no survey would ever show that the public pulse is for taxes. If, as the proverbial wisdom says, that the only certain things in life are taxes and death, then a similar public survey on death would also yield the same result as the survey on new taxes. Nobody wants either.

Taxes—and death—are therefore inevitable. But one can deal with these negative realities positively—that is, with grace and dignity. Surely, Congress and the executive should come together to solve the fiscal crisis. And any approach would have to do the following things: plug the tax loophole, stop the bleeding of GOCCs and streamline the bureaucracy, reduce or abolish lawmakers' discretionary funds (pork barrel) and enact new tax measures. For Congress to insist that the executive undertake the first two things before they act on the third and the fourth is wishful thinking. The four initiatives should be calibrated and coordinated.

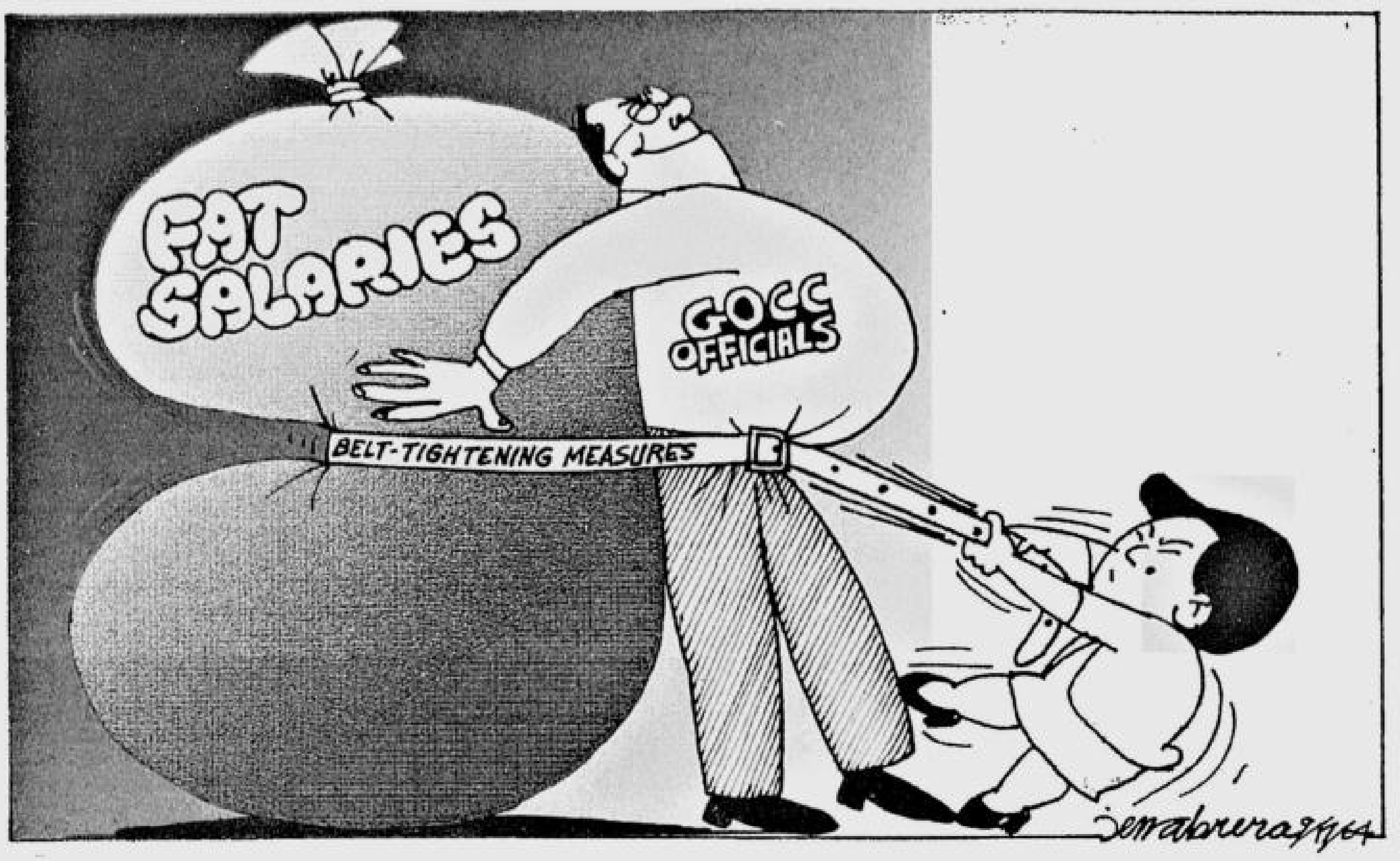
In the first place, there's no rational basis for Congress to reject offhand the tax measures proposed by the executive. Increasing the excise taxes on tobacco and liquor is only practical because both are sin products whose consumption must be regulated. In the same way, widening the value-added tax to cover lucrative professions is only practical. Strictly speaking, widening the VAT coverage is not a new tax measure; it's merely improving on a tax measure and plugging the loophole.

There are other tax measures that Congress may consider. It may increase the motor vehicle registration fee and even increase the specific tax on petroleum. The latter may come later when world petroleum prices have stabilized, but it is a wise measure if only to control the environmental effects of fossil fuels. Increasing vehicle registration fees can be immediately implemented if only to regulate the car market as well as check the environmental impact of cars.

Other tax measures that are well thought out and practical should likewise be considered. It would also help if Congress firms up its political will on giving up entirely the pork barrel of its members. That will immediately save the government P20 billion that will otherwise go to useless projects as well as line the pockets of many corrupt lawmakers.

As for the off-budget liabilities of government, particularly the servicing of the debts of GOCCs, the executive must resolve to cut costs. It must begin by cutting the salaries of executives of GOCCs whether they are making profits or reporting losses.

Now Congress may say the executive should bite the bullet first before it cuts its pork barrel and pass new tax measures. This is a condition that does not hold water because whatever it says, Congress is a strong part of the fiscal problem. If it continues to hem and haw on new tax measures, it should at least cut its pork barrel so that the savings could go to government operations and programs. Congress should realize it's on the same boat as the rest of the nation, and the boat is sinking partly because of its own inaction.



A touch of irony in DFP's chocolates deal

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is a touch of irony in the charges filed against Duty Free Philippines and the Philippine Tourism Authority for awarding the concession to supply chocolates and confectioneries to Eastern Duty Free Management Services. The supply contract did not go through public bidding, charged the DFP Employees Association in a case it filed with the Ombudsman. Two congressmen called for a House investigation of the DFP and its contracts. But while Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo asked for a probe only of the chocolates deal, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita called for an investigation of all the DFP concession contracts.

And that is where the irony lies. The man allegedly behind the moves to block the chocolates contract is said to be businessman William Tieng, known as the "Duty Free King" for his virtual monopoly of DFP contracts spanning four administrations: Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and now Arroyo. Tieng holds the DFP's supply contracts for supermarket, fashion, bed and bath, fragrances and warehousing, among others, as well as a long-term lease for Fiesta Mall in Parañaque, the DFP's flagship outlet. Tieng craves the chocolates/confectioneries contract, too.

"The fact that just one man and his partners were able to secure so much business—the lion's share of the business in fact—from the DFP over the course of several administrations," said Zialcita in his privilege speech, "this indeed means that a probe is urgently needed."

Thus, by trying to block the chocolates contract that he did not get, Tieng's own contracts will now be investigated by the House. Zialcita's call for a probe of all DFP contracts was referred to the committee on tourism headed by Bohol Rep. Edgardo Chatto, who expressed "shock" at the volume of Tieng's businesses with the DFP. There's now a snowballing move, spearheaded by Representatives Monico Fuentebella and Art Defensor, to investigate Tieng's "unbelievable" virtual monopoly of DFP contracts for the last 17 years.

Tieng and the DFPEA are assailing the chocolates contract because it did not go through public bidding, but all the other contracts with Tieng did not go through public bidding either. Since it started operating in 1987, DFP contracts have never had to go through public bidding because of its specialized nature as a duty free supplier. This position has been upheld by the Ombudsman in cases filed by disgruntled parties who were unsuccessful in winning contested contracts, and by the Office of Government Corporate Counsel in several opinions.

"I have been assured by DFP officials that the chocolates supply contract is above-board and would stand the test of scrutiny," said Zialcita. "The contract did not veer from the DFP's long-established protocols for these types of arrangements, which were in the form of negotiated contracts that were reviewed and approved by the DFP management before scrutiny and ratification by the PTA board. In fact, in this particular transaction, a rival prospective supplier, Tieng's Winning Touch Corp., made a counter-offer before the PTA board which Eastern Duty Free matched, thereby improving the deal for the DFP by some P180 million."

Under the EDF contract, the government is guaranteed $8 million in annual fees over the next four years and P6 million in monthly rentals. Full operating expenses will be borne by the EDF and no DFP employee will be displaced. The EDF also committed to buy all of the DFP's existing inventory of chocolates and confectioneries amounting to some $6 million, thereby freeing the DFP from all capital requirements.

* * *

The Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) faxed a letter answering the exposé of former Sen. Francisco Tatad, reported here last Wednesday, assailing the purchase of public land for P100.8 million in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

"The transaction was completely legal and above-board," said DOTC director for legal affairs Luis Manuel Virtucio. "The deal was approved in June 2002 when Pantaleon Alvarez was still the DOTC secretary."

Virtucio said that the land was classified as "alienable and disposable land of the public domain" and had been occupied since the 1920s and 1930s by private persons, thus giving them the right to own the property by "reason of acquisitive prescription under the law."

The price paid for the land, Virtucio added, "was based on fair market value. Originally, the government offered to pay the landowners a price based on the zonal valuation established by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. When the landowners rejected the offer, they agreed on the fair market value in accordance with Republic Act 8974. The fair market value was determined by Cuervo Appraisers, an independent property appraiser."

Virtucio added that the land in Iloilo (priced at only P60 per sq m), which was acquired for the expansion of the Iloilo airport, could not be compared with the land in Puerto Princesa (price: P900 per sq m), because the former was farmland, far from the city proper. On the other hand, the Palawan property was within the city proper of Puerto Princesa, only five minutes by tricycle from the city center.

"If the final offer was not accepted, then the property would have been subjected to expropriation proceedings through the Office of the Solicitor General," Virtucio said.

He further explained that all the properties acquired by the DOTC for the airport development project had been identified by the DOTC and Asian Development Bank's accredited consultant through a "parcellary survey."

Human rights and the folly of the 'Asean way'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE GOVERNMENTS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations take pride in doing things their own way, the so-called Asean way which prizes consensus over open, contentious debate. They value continuous bargaining rather than fixed hard-line positions. They adopt soft commitments and open-ended declarations rather than firm legal undertakings. It is as if even the most serious moral dilemmas can be negotiated, as if these problems will "go away" just by the leaders being nice to one another, best captured in the annual Asean ritual when foreign ministers let their hair down and sing and dance on stage, where the otherwise staid Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell of the United States (which attends these forums) have performed funny skits. For Asean, the capacity to compromise is a virtue rather than a sin. Otherwise, we cease "to be reasonable," a concept I got from the movie "The Godfather" rather than from our embarrassingly less articulate Asean dons.

Sadly enough, what it means for the Philippines is that it forgets all its lofty human rights principles when it comes to foreign affairs. When the Constitution says that we aim "to build a just and humane society [for] ourselves and our posterity," we read it narrowly and allow ourselves to abide inhumaneness in other societies and injustice to their posterity. We look the other way when confronted with human rights violations in Myanmar, politically motivated trials in Malaysia, Indonesian killings in East Timor (and let us not forget the genocidal attacks against their ethnic Chinese in May 1998).

The stock response is that the Constitution says that our foreign policy shall be guided by the "national interest" as a "paramount consideration." Witness therefore how then President Cory Aquino, the quintessential human rights president if there was one (only Nelson Mandela can give her a run for her money), was advised by our diplomats not to meet with then Korean opposition leader Kim Dae Jung, despite Ninoy's personal friendship with him as a fellow former prisoner in martial law regimes. (Yes, I am aware that South Korea is in Northeast Asia.)

Remember too how President Fidel Ramos tried desperately to scuttle a UP forum on East Timor in 1994. The forum was organized by the Filipino-led Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) to call attention to the former Portuguese colony that was invaded and annexed by Indonesia, followed by two decades of pacification in which an estimated 100,000 to 250,000 individuals lost their lives.

When the APCET organizers couldn't be pressured to yield, a shadowy NGO suddenly asked a Quezon City court to stop the UP forum. The Philippines-Indonesia Society, formed just days before the case was filed (shades of Pirma!), won a restraining order from the trial court, but which the Supreme Court later lifted. The APCET prevailed, but not for lack of trying by FVR.

Foreign guests to that forum however were turned away at the Naia. One of them was Jose Ramos-Horta, who just the other day was in the Philippines as the foreign minister of a newly independent Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The Philippines has also remained silent on the looting, beating, burning of homes, and rape of women, in mob attacks against ethnic Chinese in Indonesia from May 14 to 16, 1998. The stage for those genocidal attacks was set after a top-level general, in response to a financial crisis, called upon large conglomerates to bring their dollars back from abroad, with implicit accusations against wealthy Chinese. Soon thereafter, government and religious leaders spoke of the "eradication of rats" who were not patriotic in times of national crisis, in rhetoric reminiscent of Hitler's "final solution." The Philippines would have been one of the few voices in Southeast Asia with the moral standing to speak, because our record on non-discrimination though not sterling is certainly exemplary compared to that of our neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia.

Strangely enough, it was President Joseph Estrada, notorious for being oblivious to protocol, who insisted on meeting with the wife and family of fallen Malaysian leader Anwar Ibrahim, over the protestations of our learned diplomats. He insisted in true Erap-style that he knew the family personally so what's the big deal about him meeting with them?

Anwar was heir-apparent to long-time Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad, until his fall from grace. The former firebrand of Malaysia's radical student movement was jailed on charges of sodomy and corruption. Mahathir has since stepped down, and last week, the sodomy charges were thrown out by an appeals court. Anwar is now free, but is subject to a five-year ban from public office due to his separate conviction for corruption. As the world applauds new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's vision of a kinder and gentler Malaysia, the unspoken premise is that Malaysia's courts still genuflect before political power—unspoken because the world, alas, might be turning into Asean softies, too.

We must return to first principles. We must remember that when we were fighting to restore our democracy, we turned to the international community for succor, saying that the violation of human rights anywhere is an injustice everywhere. Had other nations snubbed Ninoy Aquino and other heroes and denied them sanctuary, had other nations not sent observers to the 1986 snap elections that led to Edsa I, in other words, had other nations behaved toward us then, as today we behave toward the people of Myanmar, the ethnic Chinese in Indonesia, the East Timorese, the Anwars in Malaysia and elsewhere, our Edsa I would not have happened.

And I thought repaying old debts was part of the Corleone-style, touchy-feely, Oprah-warm Asean niceness?

* * *

Comments to raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph

Spending priorities

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FISCAL crisis or not, the problem looks serious enough for citizens and the government to agree that new taxes and public spending cuts cannot be avoided. The sooner we can accept this fact, the earlier we can take the necessary measures to cushion their impact on those for whom the shocks could be truly devastating.

Among the measures that have been proposed to help curb our chronic fiscal problem is a reduction of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to be distributed to local governments. Unlike perhaps the new taxes the government might impose, cutting the local governments' IRA is likely to fall harder on the poor.

Since its introduction through the 1991 Local Government Code, the IRA has been a good mechanism for making the distribution of nationally collected revenues more equitable across administrative regions and provinces. It has also afforded local governments down to the smallest barangay access to resources for supporting development projects which cannot be funded otherwise.

One apparent advantage of the IRA is that it seems to be accessible to poor constituents. IRA funds have been responsible for constructing many badly needed community infrastructure in poor rural and urban communities. A growing number of poor areas now have deep wells, day care centers, barangay health facilities, footpaths and drainage because of the IRA. While it may be true that some IRA funds have not been wisely spent, more and more citizens and people's organizations have learned to access funds from local government budgets and make good use of them.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has indicated that she wants the legislators' Countrywide Development Funds (CDF) to be used in accordance with her 10-point agenda of government. What she has not mentioned is how far she is prepared to protect the poorest and most vulnerable sectors from the impending budget cuts and to push for a poverty-focused spending agenda. Offhand, given the present sorry state of education, nutrition and health provision in the country, it is hard to imagine how these social services can absorb any further cuts without inflicting short and long-term costs on the country's human capital. From experience, when governments of developing countries decide to reduce public spending, public services used mainly by the poor suffer the biggest cuts.

As the economists of the University of the Philippines pointed out in their recent paper discussing the roots and possible remedies of the present fiscal problem, simply maintaining the present level of social spending would effectively result in a reduction in real terms per capita, given the steady rise in population. Knowing this, policymakers need to be more conscious of their duty to protect the poor from being made to sacrifice more than what they are doing already.

Here local governments play a crucial role. Given the proper tools, they are well placed to determine more accurately what the spending priorities of government should be if it wants to have the greatest impact on poverty or at least protect the poor from the shocks of fiscal austerity. The government's fiscal austerity program would do well to mobilize local governments in diagnosing what services are most badly needed, who the most vulnerable groups are and where they are.

A number of tools on poverty mapping and diagnosis exist. Some local governments have also devised their own tools and approaches for tracking the situation of their poor constituents. The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) for one, has made available to local governments a simplified poverty diagnostic tool which consolidates several previously used monitoring tools like the MBN (Minimum Basic Needs) and the CBPIMS (Community-Based Poverty Indicators Monitoring System).

At a time when government needs to make sure that it makes the best use of every centavo it spends, it is important that welfare targets are clearly spelled out and that ways of monitoring these targets are not only in place but are also easily accessible to ordinary citizens for purposes of exacting accountability.

In this sense, the local governments' IRA has an advantage over legislators' pork barrel because in general there are clearer and more transparent criteria for the use of IRA funds for development projects. More importantly, a growing number of citizens' groups, including development NGOs and community-based organizations, have learned to access development funds from their local governments tapping into IRA resources. Some of them are participating in local development planning processes and take part in identifying projects meant to benefit poorer communities. Others have gone into partnerships with local governments to set up poverty-tracking data-bases and poverty-focused planning processes to ensure that local development plans and projects do take account of their impact on the poor in a direct way.

Although there may be these institutional mechanisms at the local level that can foster a more rational and accountable use of development funds coming from the national budget, we cannot also be blind to the fact that for many local governments, personnel costs and general services dominate the local budget while social services get a shrinking share. But herein lies the challenge for ordinary citizens and their organizations to be more involved in determining the spending priorities of their local governments. Let us do this now and make the IRA work for those who need it most.

A life in dance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE OF the "Amazing Alumna" awardees in the recent Maryknoll-Miriam Alumni Homecoming was Edna Vida Reyes-Froilan, former soloist and assistant company manager of Ballet Philippines (formerly the CCP Dance Company) who took up choreography, writing, painting and performing after she hung up her dancing shoes.

Edna is a batchmate in HS Class '72 of Maryknoll, one of the legendary and notorious "Rotten Apples" who have managed, through the decades, to make up for the sorrows we caused our teachers and the nuns by turning out to be "interesting" women in the mold of the moving spirits of the Maryknoll order.

When informed that our class was nominating her for the "Amazing Alumna" award, Edna prepared the following write-up, a summing up of a life dedicated to the pursuit of artistry and excellence, if not always through the straight and narrow road, but through the crooked path of serendipity, contradiction, creativity and courage. Here's Edna's account of "My Life after Maryknoll."

(Because of space constraints, I'll be reprinting excerpts from Edna's account in two installments.)

* * *

I WANTED to take up journalism after I graduated from high school but my mother revealed her secret plans for my future. I was going to be a dancer, not a writer. I was going to Philippine Women's University, not Maryknoll College. I was going to dance for the CCP Dance Company (now Ballet Philippines) which my eldest sister, Alice Reyes, founded and headed.

The four years I spent in high school were all about dodging this forthcoming tragedy. Yes, I led a bubblegum dance group in Maryknoll that performed in school events and, yes, I had a stint as a cheerleader. But that didn't mean I was qualified to join a professional ballet company. The summer dance workshops I was forced to take at the CCP established a distressing fact: a future for me in dance was bleak. In ballet class I looked pathetic beside the ballerinas…I didn't have technique and coordination in modern dance. I was a miserable wannabe who didn't even want to be.

Maryknoll had shaped the insecure child I was into a rather resourceful adolescent. When I entered Maryknoll I worried about how I'd manage as the youngest of the Reyes brood. The eldest, Alice, was selected Most Outstanding Student with a consistently high academic record in spite of work outside as a professional artist. My second sister, Betty, was glee club president and head of a musical band called Las Desafinadas. My third sister, Cecile, headed a singing group called The Hush A Byes. My fourth sister, Denise, headed a dance group and a singing group called The Pattern People. What was I going to be? I was a non-entity, a no-sing, no-dance Reyes girl.

As luck would have it, in Grade 4, a class choreographer was needed for a school activity. I got the position through sheer name recall. I thought: If Maryknoll believed in me, I must have hope. I accepted the challenge to compensate for my unflattering report card…The experience changed my perspective. I could be anything. All I needed was courage. For my work, I got a letter of thanks from Sister Miriam Thomas herself (long-time president of Maryknoll after whom Miriam College is named) which I proudly keep to this day.

* * *

THIS was apparently the beginning of a calling in dance. After that I set up my own dance group. It's funny I cannot recall what we named it. I do know we managed to appear on television once. A more flattering discovery was a "flair for writing" that a composition teacher announced I had before class one day…Still, my plucky spirit produced even more errant acts. I cut classes when I was bored. My friends and I trekked to watch bold movies in Aurora Boulevard. We smoked inside the vacant school buses parked safely away from the teachers' room.

One day I was caught playing hooky. My mother and I were called to the principal's office and there we were told that I would be suspended for a week. I sat stoically as tears flowed. Again a new perspective emerged. I crack jokes and people laugh. I dance and people applaud. I play hooky and I am punished. The seeds I plant produce the crops I harvest. This was a lesson from Maryknoll that I embraced well into the future.

* * *

IN 1972 Edna Reyes, the hypothetical princess, died in a mystical way. Alice changed my name to Edna Vida, and it was she who took over to live a daunting life in the performing arts.

Dance can be compared to an intricate spider web and I was trapped on my first flight as an insect. At first I took one class a day with two other students in the adult beginners' class. We had a wonderful teacher who molded us as if we were his most cherished works of art. Again I thought: If this man can believe so much in me, I must have hope.

Suddenly I was taking two classes a day. Someone mentioned high extensions. When I arrived home every night I lengthened my legs to make them go higher. I did my back-bends when no one was looking. Someone noticed my splits. I stretched my legs even more. Every morning I prayed: Dear God, I need a miracle. Please make me a good dancer, a very good dancer, the best dancer in this company. I wanted to be a ballerina and, at 17, I was too old. It was an impossible dream that only fools might have.

But God amused me. During that summer workshop I took the place of a scholar in a leading role done by Alice herself… My partner was a new member of the company, an upcoming male star. His name was Nonoy Froilan…The rehearsals were appalling. Alice, it seemed, was determined to prove she had made a mistake in casting me. She scolded me for not hearing the music, for being too slow and uncoordinated. It was a most humbling experience…If success'meant total humiliation, I was very successful.

The national budget for 1899

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOW that Congress is scrutinizing the national budget submitted by the executive branch with a fine-tooth comb, I cannot help but look far back into the past to see how we have developed in terms of expenditures or what are considered expenses of the republic. The summary of expenditures for 1899 is quite intriguing since the figures did not reach billions like they do today.

The First Section dealt with "general obligations" and yet the allowance for personnel in Congress was left blank, although supplies were pegged at P9,585. For the Supreme Court personnel was P21,078 and supplies, P5,000. There was a provision for passage money and salaries of civil employees who travel by water amounting to P12,000. Those who travel on land or on foot didn't seem to have been reckoned. Then as now there was a provision for "emergency appropriations" for "unforeseen expenses" in the amount of P13,200.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had a budget for the Office of the Secretary of P3,240 for personnel and P1,200 for supplies. What is intriguing here is that "unforeseen expenses" of the diplomatic corps were pegged at P60,000, while P12,000 allocated for the Archive of Foreign and Special Affairs was placed under "emergency" and "unforeseen expenses." One could say that the founding fathers inserted items in the budget that were not clear or itemized.

The Office of the Interior Affairs Secretary had appropriations for personnel and supplies like everyone else, but it also had a P10,000 budget for "transportation and maintenance of recruits" and funds for Penal Institutions, salaries and expenses for prisons. The budget for unforeseen expenses was lower than that in Foreign Affairs at P6,000.

One of the biggest appropriations was for the War and Navy Department, and this is understandable since the First Republic was waging a war against the United States. What was different in this budget was that there were allocations for: military household of the President, P4,680; President's Escort P816; President's Guard P2,034; and Pampanga Mounted Guerrillas, P1,056. There were allocations for a Sanitary Brigade, hospitals, personnel of 33 battalions, rations and even pensions for deeds of war. The budget for emergency and unforeseen expenses was quite high at P1,795,680, compared to those for other departments.

The Treasury Department had allocations for: expenses for transfer of funds, P6,200; cost of stamped articles, P10,000; and printing expenses, P60,000. Would you believe that they gave commissions for collection of the following: city taxes, P3,100; industrial taxes, P12,460; war taxes, P202,500; Chinese poll-tax, P6,000; and even the sale of articles under a government monopoly, P4,000?

Were these real commissions or incentives or tax breaks? We cannot tell from the budget, but surely there is some other document that explains how this was computed and given out.

The war tax was quite large and though I would like to believe that this was raised out of patriotic fervor, there were some documented complaints from citizens asking the president to look into anomalies in the collection of the war tax, that to some was not voluntary but forced and could be seen as extortion.

Another surprising item in the Treasury budget was a provision for the refund or return of money unduly collected under closed estimates with no figure given. I also cannot make out what they mean by "participants in fines imposed by competent authority P5,000." Unforeseen and emergency expenses were pegged at P12,000.

Education was under a Department of Public Instruction that was given a total of P35,468 for personnel, supplies and "scientific, artistic, special and literary institutions," whatever that means. No breakdown of the expenses was given, and we can now ask whether schools remained operational during the Filipino-American War.

Communications and Public Works also had a budget that was smaller than the military's and pegged at P361,366 for personnel, supplies, surveys and new works for: railways, waters, rivers, canals, highways, bridges, lighthouses and even a meteorological observatory!

Last but not least, we have the Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce which had a total budget of P21,688 covering personnel, supplies, model farms, forestry and mines.

Reading the budget for 1899 may not be a favorite pastime but it illustrates how simpler life was a century ago. The 1899 budget could be read in one sitting unlike the present budget that is as thick as a phone book.

The 2004 budget will be read by a future historian first as a record of expenses, but also as a way to understand the challenges and concerns of our times.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Kitchen Spanish

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"SIGUE suya conmigo para habla bueno-bueno con aquel mi tia."

That's a line from "Cuentos Filipinos" (Filipino Stories) by Jose Montero y Vidal, first published in 1876 and now available in an English translation from the Ateneo de Manila.

Readers who speak Spanish know that the grammar and syntax aren't quite right but that was the version being used by the indios, the natives of the Philippines. Translated, it means: "All right, follow me so you can have a good talk with my aunt."

There's much you can learn from the book about daily life during those times, but what most fascinated me were the snatches of conversation in the stories, giving us an opportunity to eavesdrop on something called *"español de cocina."* That's "kitchen Spanish," the term used by the Spaniards to refer to the natives' version of Spanish, so labeled because it was associated with the household help.

Creole languages

As in many places occupied by foreign powers over a long period, several areas in the Philippines developed what linguists call creole languages, hybrid languages that combine the colonizers' words with local ones.

The Summer Institute of Languages' (SIL) website (www.ethnologue.com), one of the most comprehensive databases of the world's languages, lists Chavacano as a creole language in the Philippines. Also called "bamboo Spanish" by the Americans, Chavacano has a predominantly Spanish vocabulary but with a Philippine-type grammatical structure. SIL lists several variations of Chavacano, spoken in Manila, Cavite, Davao, Cotabato and, of course, Zamboanga. The line I quoted from Montero's book is probably an example of Ermitaño (or Ermiteño), spoken in Manila.

Montero's book is filled with Spanish, Tagalog and Chavacano terms, giving color and life to his stories and glimpses into how languages were developing at that time. We learn that Chinese food was already popular then, at least in Manila, with people able to go to *pansiterias* serving, what else, but *pansit* as well as, note the Spanish spelling, *tajo* and *jopia* (noodles, bean curd and mongo cakes).

As with the 21st century Filipino, clothes were important, bought from *sinamayeras*, vendors who sold not just the abaca-silk blend called *sinamay*, but also clothes like *tapis*, *guinaras*, *cambayas* and *camisas de pinya*. The *sinamayeras* were usually Chinese *mestizas*, who were said to "love to dress well and who by nature delight in festivities, pleasantries and lively occasions."

'Republica de chichirico'

Merrymaking was described as *"gaudeamus,"* a Latin term actually meaning "let us rejoice." To mark special occasions, whether graduating from school or a death in the family, there would be a *catapusan*, which today means "the end" but which in the 19th century also referred to a dance—and did they dance, from the graceful *balitao* of the Visayas to the frenzied *habanera* borrowed from Cuba.

Gambling was already popular, including betting on horse races and a host of card games: *monte*, *llampo*, *panguingui* and *tapa-diablo*. We learn that the Spaniards were often at the mercy of their cooks, who would gamble away the marketing money.

The cooks and houseboys were called *bata*, child. Strangely, *niño* and *niña*, originally referring to a little boy or little girl in Spanish, had evolved to become terms of endearment in the Philippines, used to refer even to grandmothers and grandfathers!

We learn how race is an important divider, with Montero's characters often identified according to specific racial categories. His first story's heroine, Enriqueta, is described as an *española filipina*, the child of a peninsular father (a Spaniard born in Spain) and a *filipina*, a term reserved at that time for Spaniards born in the Philippines.

A young single woman was called a *dalaga* while her male counterpart was a *bagong tao*, a new person. Alternatively, the Spanish term *soltero* was used to refer to bachelors.

We read of a vain breed of such *solteros*, especially the men from small towns who go off to study in Manila and then return home transformed, dressed like Europeans and more: "… they look at their boots when walking and speak in a pompous way although unable to rid themselves of the habit of pronouncing F as P and vice-versa." The pretensions to wealth and good breeding are described by a quaint Spanish term: *"chichirico."*

Life in Manila was expensive, so imagine some of these rural dandies grouping themselves, not into a *barkada* but a *republica* (of *chichirico*?), so they could share the rental costs, expenses at the *palenque* (market) or *tiangi* (flea market)… maybe even their *camisa de pinya*.

'Chino español?'

From Montero's book, we see that the Philippines in the 19th century was a linguistic hive, the result of an intermingling of different cultures. Particularly intriguing was the way Hokkien or Minnan Chinese, the language spoken by immigrants from Fujian, was insinuating itself into the conversations of the natives and into kitchen Spanish.

The line I used to begin today's column was taken from a conversation between a Chinese man named Chang and Quicay (yes, nickname for Francisca), a *cigarrera* or a woman working in a cigar factory.

Chang, a ladies' man apparently, had noticed Quicay and began following (these days, maybe stalking) her. She notices and asks him, *"Cosa quiere suya conmigo* (What do you want with me)?" to which he answers, *"Mia quiele platicalo* (I wish to speak with you)."

Now, this is indeed bamboo Spanish, and I mean "Chinese Spanish" here, with the "r" in Spanish words changed to an "l", as we see with the word *"quiere"* (to wish) becoming *"quiele."*

That's not all. When Quicay asks Chang why he wants to speak with her, he gets quite direct, explaining that he found her to be *"magandan dalaga,"* a pretty woman. Flattered, Quicay exclaims, *"Aba!"* Chang takes that as a cue to further affirm, in 19th century Chinese Tagalog, that she is beautiful: *"icao mariquit."*

Quicay, who is as *kikay* as a coquette could get, replies, *"Kansia,"* which is the Hokkien term for "Thank you" (actually *kamsia*), telling us some Chinese terms were familiar even to a cigar factory worker.

Chang is emboldened by Quicay's responses to his overtures: *"Mia quiele mucho con suya y tiene cualtas para puede compla saya y candonga."* That was a rather audacious proposition: "I like you very much and I have the money (*cualtas!*) to buy you a skirt and a carriage."

Chang the *bolero* apparently gets his way as Quicay offers the *"habla bueno-bueno"* with her aunt. (I wonder, *tia* or *tia-tia*?)

Bueno-bueno, get the book at National Bookstore and read to find out what happened not just to Chang and Quicay but to the other protagonists in the short stories, from a Jolo sultana to the pirate Limahong. Keep an eye out for the dynamism in languages but note, too, how the characters—bored expatriates and scheming businessmen, martyred wives and feckless husbands—seem to endure through time.

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Focus on solving the problem

THE NATIONAL budget deficit has long been a public concern. The crisis alarmed the nation after economists warned that our economy could collapse in the next two years. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' call for "collective sacrifice" in order to help the country survive the financial crisis sounds noble. So is the appeal to "give cash to the government."

However, we must not lose sight of the real issue that should be addressed. Let us not blind ourselves to what seems to be a heroic deed. Let us focus on the bigger picture. Let us deal directly with the root of the problem.

The truth is our country has enough financial resources, considering the numerous taxes the government is collecting from us. The problem lies not in the lack of funds but on how the government spends its resources. The government does not need more money. It needs an honest, responsible and intelligent system of utilizing the national budget. In the first place, the citizens who contribute to the budget through tax payments are ignorant of the country's expenditures. Ironic, isn't it?

Students demand a higher budget for education. We may not be among them but we share their concern. It frightens us that one day, our younger brothers or sisters can no longer benefit from the privilege of being an *"iskolar ng bayan"* because the government can no longer afford to support them in their quest for quality education.

—KATRINA CARMELA LOPEZ,
katrina_carmela@yahoo.com

Lack of support for musicians

I VERY much agree with Conrado de Quiros' Sept. 2 column, "Essentials." Not that I'm advocating the total withdrawal of support for sports in the country. I'm just disappointed with the lack of government support for our musicians. We have the best musicians, but none of them are given due recognition or support, especially in financial terms.

The column jibes with Pablo Tariman's article, which was published earlier. (PDI, 8/23/04) In his article, Tariman describes how depressing the musical scene is in the Philippines, especially for artists of the serious (classical) genre, noting that not one classical singer has been honored in Malacañang, as against the numerous belters and winners of popular TV singing contests who have been invited to the Palace.

Come on! They are already winners of millions of pesos in those contests. On top of that, there are also the lucrative contracts with their respective TV networks. It's time classical musicians were given at least a share of the limelight.

—WILLIAM LIM JR.,
10 Charles St., Kingsville Subd.,
Antipolo, Rizal

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Open Naia 3

THE ABORTED opening of the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 is a great disservice to travelers and tourists—Filipinos and foreigners alike.

We're losing a lot of potential tourists and investors because of our constant bickerings, while our Asean neighbors enhance the tourism and investment climate in their countries by building ultramodern terminals.

Our government officials should get their act together and immediately open, once and for all, this controversial terminal before it becomes another white elephant.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR.,
6737 Taylo St., Makati City

Cell phone theft

SINCE the areas where cellular phone theft is common have been identified, I suggest that security cameras be installed in those areas to help find the bad guys. Here in the United States, security cameras—no longer expensive these days—are everywhere.—**Engineer Samuel B. Magno, Winston-Salem, NC, USA, via e-mail**

* * *

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I am among the thousands who have been victimized by cell phone snatching, like a lot of us here in the office. Which shows how rampant this crime is.

Anyway, may I suggest that the INQUIRER do a follow-up article on cell phones returned to their owners by honest people? I want to commend the person who returned my Nokia 6600 when I left it in a taxi. Although I offered him a cash reward for his good deed (he refused to accept the money), I knew it was not enough to repay him. A follow-up article may somehow be able to change the life of even just a few cell phone thieves. **—Geney Hufana, 4/F Professional Tower, 37 Edsa cor. Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City 1550, via e-mail**

* * *

Why can't the media join hands in pushing for the enactment of a law that would effectively punish the selling and buying of stolen cell phones? The deaths that have resulted from cell phone robberies—not to mention the pain and the trauma suffered by victims who worked hard and sacrificed so much so that they could buy cell phones—cry for effective action.—**Romeo C. Rodriguez, Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia, via e-mail**

* * *

As in the case back home, here in the United Kingdom, phone theft is rampant. People kill people for it.

Stolen phones are easy to find. If you can't afford to have a new one, just go to the nearest second-hand shop and—voila!—you can buy one for just a fraction of the original price.

Don't even talk to me about going to the police. They'll just ask questions and give you a log number and tell you to claim your insurance. But what if your phone wasn't insured?

Prices for stolen phones here range from 10 pounds to less than 100 pounds—depending, of course, on the kind of cell phone being sold.—**Joyce Soldevilla Manaysay, 30 Rivergrove Gipsyville Hull, HU4 6LZ East Yorkshire, UK**

* * *

My cell phone which is on G-Flex plan with Globe Telecom was stolen in Batangas. I went to Globe and there I was informed that the only help Globe could give was to block the SIM (Subscriber Identification Module). Then I discovered that it took a measly P300 to "unblock" the SIM, so I went to Smart to ensure that the phone would not work with a Smart SIM. Smart wouldn't lift a finger. I guess it wanted to get the business once the new phone holder shifted to Smart. I suppose this kind of business mind-set works on both sides of the fence.

So I had to go through a difficult process of securing an affidavit of loss and a police report, going all the way to Diliman in Quezon City to block further use of my stolen cell phone. It was such a tedious, time-consuming, expensive process that would most likely have discouraged the faint of heart. That is why stolen phones are easily sold and reused.

Let us make the process of blocking the use of stolen phones easy so it will be more costly for the buyers of such phones. I believe once phone ownership is proven, the service provider—Globe, Sun, or Smart—should undertake to send the request to block to the National Telecommunications Commission. No need for all those other documents. This will cut blocking time by more than 50 percent.

For phones purchased from registered free agents and dealers, the sealer must be required to certify the purchase and forward the documents to the NTC. Now, if the cell phone is bought from unlicensed and unregistered dealers and agents, then let the buyer beware; it's his/her risk.—**Emelita L. Beltran, 205 Madrigal Ave., Ayala Alabang, via e-mail**

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Gov't ambulance used for drug deal

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested three people aboard a government-owned ambulance at the Makar Port here on Wednesday and seized from them 20 large sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

Lawyer Boye Mama, NBI district head for Sarangani and General Santos, identified the suspects as Malik Maltao, the alleged drug courier; Josefa Corpuz, the alleged contact and Leo Al Lucero, driver of the ambulance owned by the municipality of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, which the suspects used.

The arrest came after an unidentified informant told NBI of Maltao's scheduled arrival at the port here from Manila.

Mama said the informant had told them that the contact would either use a private van or a government-owned ambulance in meeting Maltao.

As early as 8 a.m., NBI agents were already posted at the pier and waited for the arrival of the Supper Ferry from Manila.

Out of place

Around 9 a.m., Mama said the ship arrived and this was when the agents noticed an ambulance belonging to Lambayong town.

He said after disembarking from the ship, Maltao immediately rode the ambulance. NBI agents posted at the pier's gate flagged down the ambulance and found Maltao and Corpuz inside.

They were then invited at the NBI office here for questioning.

NBI agents checked on Maltao's luggage and found an airpot.

When inspected, Mama said the airpot contained the 20 sachets of shabu estimated to be worth P320,000.

He said during interrogation, Maltao, a resident of Lambayong, claimed he was just a middleman in the transaction.

Mama said Maltao identified an Abu Ismael, a Maranao based in Pasig City, as his source.

Corpuz, a mother of three and also a resident of Lambayong, admitted the confiscated shabu was to be distributed in Tacurong City.

Officials' involvement

Mama said the NBI would dig deeper to look into the possible involvement of a Lambayong official in the activities of the suspects.

This came after Lucero confessed that it was the second time the government vehicle was used to transport drugs.

Lucero had presented a trip ticket signed by a Lambayong town official.

The trip ticket, dated Sept. 15, was issued for the use of the ambulance in ferrying a supposed patient by the name of Alex Lucero to Polomolok town, South Cotabato.

In a related development, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) here said it was filing charges against a police officer, who was caught in the act of selling shabu on Sept. 10.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

More lawyers sign petition vs court fee hike

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Around 400 lawyers here have supported the signature campaign initiated by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Cebu City chapter asking the Supreme Court to review and reconsider the imposition of new legal fees.

Lawyer Democrito Barcenas, president of the IBP-Cebu City chapter, yesterday said the signatures would be included in the annexes to the petition they would file next week before the High Tribunal.

Barcenas said the Supreme Court has not acted on their request yet, prompting him to convene the board again to finalize the filing of the petition urging the reconsideration of the implementation of the new rates.

The lawyers' group has recently endorsed a copy of their resolution dated Aug. 4 this year to the Supreme Court in the hope that the justices would take action on their request.

Aside from the signature campaign, the IBP city chapter has also circulated a copy of their resolution in different colleges and universities here to ask for their support.

He also welcomed the move of the other IBP chapters in the Visayas and Luzon that also adopted similar resolutions.

"I'm happy with the recent development since other chapters in Roxas, Iloilo and Bacolod cities have joined our call. This is just a manifestation that many are opposed to the new rule," he said.

The lawyers maintained that the drastic increase in legal fees would greatly affect the rights of the litigants and practicing lawyers in the provinces and contradicted the constitutional provision on free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies.

Some of the increases include the performance of marriage ceremony from the present rate of P200 to P2,000 in cities and P1,000 in other areas.

Meanwhile, the IBP national board has already adopted this month two resolutions also asking the Supreme Court to suspend and reconsider the new ruling under Rule 141 of the Rules of Court.

The resolution signed by Jose Anselmo Cadiz, national IBP president, described the new rate of legal fees was "exorbitant."

The resolution also said the new rule has adverse effects since it would discourage aggrieved parties to seek judicial remedies for their complains. It also asked the Supreme Court to hold dialogues with governors and officers of the IBP.

The lawyers here have maintained that the Supreme Court failed to consult them about the new rate of increase.

Another lawyers' group, the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (Mabini), headed by former Sen. Rene Saguisag, has initiated the filing of a formal petition.

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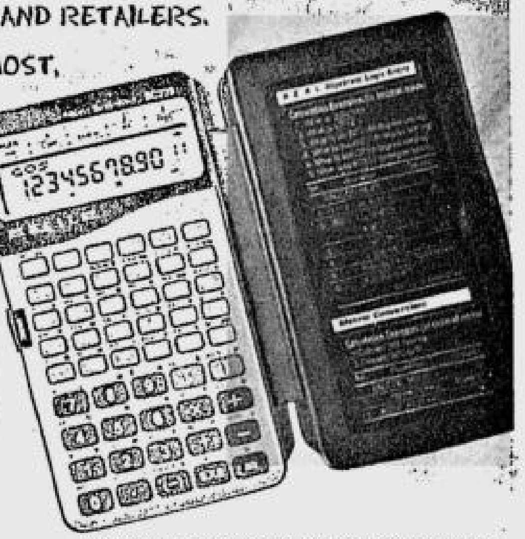
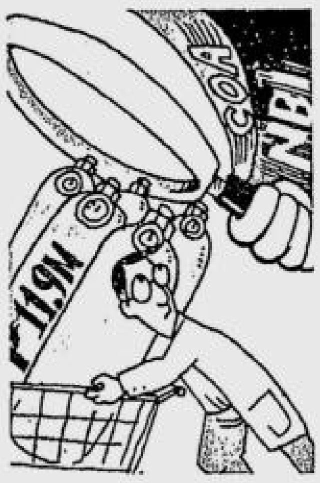


NBI probes excess purchase of oxygen at gov't hospital

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau



BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Commission on Audit, will investigate the alleged irregular and excessive multimillion-peso purchase of medical oxygen at a state-run regional hospital here over a four-year period.

NBI Bacolod chief Pedro Diaz said he was creating a team to conduct the investigation starting next week at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH).

Diaz said yesterday that if their findings would show that violations were committed, criminal and administrative cases would be filed against those responsible for violating the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Dr. Benito Bionat Jr., CLMMRH chief of clinics, asked Diaz to investigate the alleged irregularities "for the purpose of uncovering anomalies, if any, and to prosecute those responsible personnel or officers."

He said he asked for the investigation to clear his name.

Bionat said an audit team from the Department of Health found that there were "irregular and excessive procurement of medical oxygen" for the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

No proper documentation was ever presented by responsible officers of the hospital, he said.

Bionat said he tried to conduct an investigation on his own and even wrote to Dr. Domingo Vega, CLMMRH chief of hospital, to furnish him with needed documents.

"Vega did not favor my request and instead directed personnel concerned not to furnish any hospital documents to any person," he said.

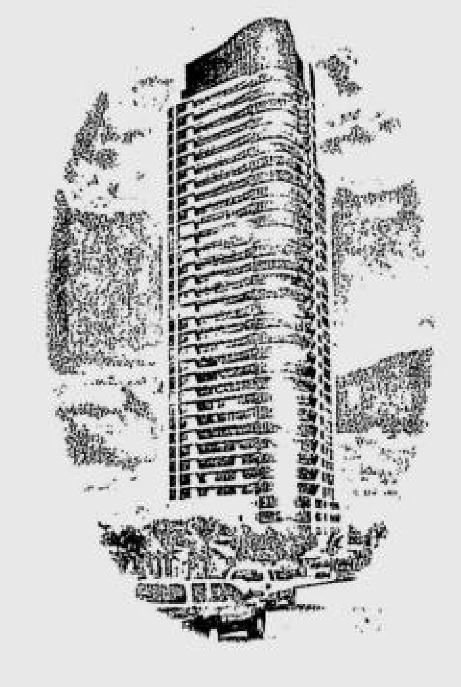
Vega, in a hospital memorandum dated Aug. 23, 2004, directed all division chiefs, department heads and section heads not to furnish any hospital document to anyone, saying that all hospital records are official and confidential in nature.

He said hospital documents could not be given to anyone without his permission or authority of the chief of hospital unless there is a court order.

Bionat, in a letter to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, said the CLMMRH purchase of oxygen in the year 2003 amounted to P11,927,450, which accounted for 26.32 percent of the hospital's P45.306 million budget for the year.

He said that comparative data from the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC), which practically has a similar volume of patients and services offered as CLMMRH, had oxygen use for 2003 of only P5.994 million, which was 11.8 percent of WVMC' P53.582 million budget for their maintenance and operating expenses.

Bionat said the matter was presented many times to the CLMMRH in the presence of Vega but no appropriate measure was taken to address the problem.



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MAY 25 OPERATION

Tawi-Tawi villagers sue US, RP troops for slays

By Julie Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Residents of a village in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi sued four American servicemen and several military and police personnel for murder and human rights violations at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) here.

The suit came in connection with a military operation there in May, where three villagers were killed.

Jose Manuel Mamauag, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) director for Western Mindanao, only revealed the charges Wednesday, although it was filed in July yet.

The residents, led by Sipangkot village chief Aldo Bara, said on May 25, Filipino soldiers, the unidentified American servicemen and police raided Sitio Umapoy and arrested at least 11 villagers on charges of being Abu Sayyaf members.

Ranking military officials would not return calls for their reaction to the charges.

But Chief Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police, vowed to help in the investigation.

In the complaint, the residents denied that those arrested were Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

They said the raiding team tortured the arrested villagers and later killed three of them.

Former Southern Command chief Roy Kyamko and ranking Navy officials called a press conference in June to announce the killing of three bandits and the arrest of eight others in a May 25 operation on Umapoy Island.

UNWAVERING VAL HANDUMON/PDI PHOTO
The faithful won't be stopped from going to church in Lubao, Pampanga by floods.

Pampanga exec sees losses in North Expressway

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Protests and the decrease in the number of road users due to the planned P2.49 per kilometer toll rate for the more than 80-km stretch of the upgraded North Luzon Expressway would not help its builder recover its P18.3-billion investment, a Pampanga official said.

Board Member Tarcicio Halili, former chair of the Philippine Association of Realtors Board, anticipated this scenario in a paper he submitted to the provincial board on Monday.

The board continued its investigation of the proposed rate adjustments by the Lopez family-owned Manila North Tollways Corp.

Halili gave the paper, "An analysis and option on NLEX toll rate hike," before the board hears the side of the project's consultant, the University of the Philippines Planning and Development Research Foundation Inc. (UP Planades), in the first week of October.

He said there has to be a "win-win formula" that is "doable" and "fair" to vehicle owners, traders, the public, the MNTC and its foreign investors who took risks to invest on the project.

The MNTC projected a 13.92-percent return on investment within the 30-year contract to rehabilitate and operate the NLEX. Loans for the project did not come with government guarantees, the MNTC said.

The P6.6 billion in additional project cost was not included in the base toll rate, it said.

Still, Halili said the proposed toll hike, which is equivalent to at least P199.20 for the entire NLEX stretch (cars, light vehicles), was "abrupt and exorbitant" to the public amid the economic crisis.

He proposed six options based on the same factors the MNTC used in determining the rates:

* Reduce toll by half. This will double if not triple the number of road users. MNTC estimated the current traffic volume at 163,000 vehicles daily.

* Extend the 30-year contract for 10 more years, spreading the rate increases over time "without sacrificing the profit margin of the foreign investors."

* Invite new investors to operate the NLEX when the MNTC contract expires in 2030.

* Deduct the cost of using the bridges since these were not upgraded.

* Suspend the construction and installation of light posts and other amenities and deduct the cost of operating and maintaining these.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tighter security in churches urged

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Priests have been told to tighten security in churches here after the recent theft of the heads and hands of statues of saints in Murcia and Hinigaran towns.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra yesterday appealed to the perpetrators to respect the images considered sacred by the Catholic Church.

"We are not asking that they suffer retribution, but the mere fact that these are blessed images and objects of the devotion of the people, taking them is derogatory of the sanctity of the church and the object concerned," he said.

The bishop also appealed to the public not to buy the stolen church relics and to inform law enforcers if they know where these sacred objects were.

"This may be the work of a syndicate who are after antique artifacts," he said.

On the speculation that the stolen objects may be used as amulets, Navarra said these objects do not have magic powers. "Their purpose is to arouse devotion and increase the faith of the people."

Navarra said he was writing a circular letter to the priests of the Diocese of Bacolod telling them to tighten security in churches.

The head and hands of the century-old statue of the Mary Immaculate Conception and those of St. Mary Magdalene statue in the Murcia and Hinigaran churches were taken by thieves recently.

The National Bureau of Investigation is investigating the thefts.

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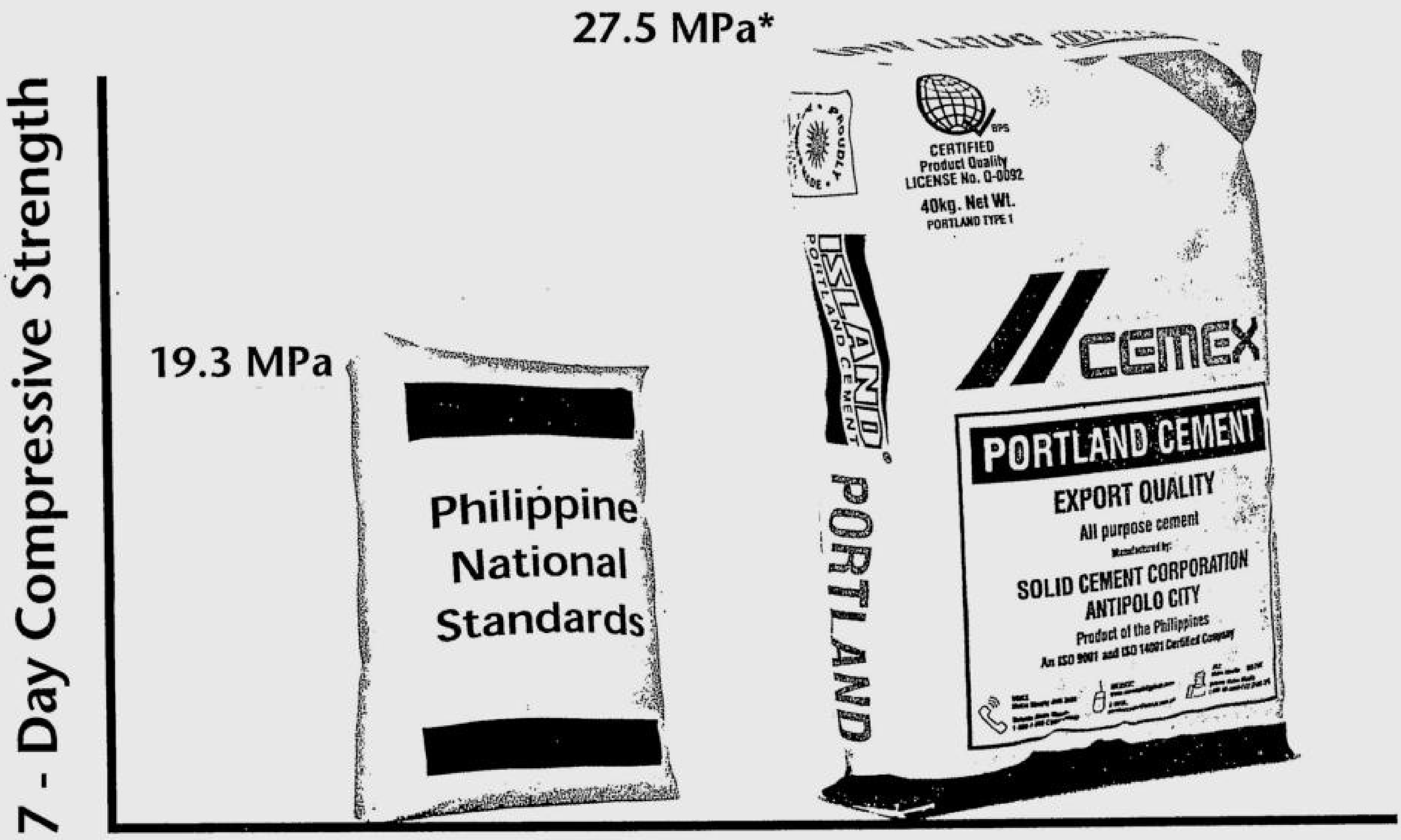

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'Best and brightest'

GIVEN the financial slump, is a salary of more than P6 million a year unreasonable?

Not if the government is to attract the "best and brightest," said Rufino Bomasang, president of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) and third on the list of government "fat cats" in 2002.

Bomasang said that in the PNOC, the pay range was carried over from the Petrophil Corp. days, when salaries were designed to be competitive with those offered by the multinational oil firms Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. of the Royal Dutch/Shell group and Caltex Philippines Inc. of Chevron Texaco Inc. Petrophil is the predecessor of Petron Corp., the country's leading oil firm, in which PNOC has a 40-percent stake.

"One of the main reasons the PNOC has been able to give back almost P48 billion to the government over the years is the fact that [it] has been able to attract the best and brightest in the industry," said Bomasang, a mining engineering board exam topnotcher in 1964 with an average of 85.79 percent, the highest since 1953.

His post, which he has held since 1996, was offered to him in 1995, when he was earning in dollars as a US-AID consultant.

Bomasang admitted getting a P6-million paycheck in 2002, but said the amount covered his basic pay, 13th-month pay and other bonuses before taxes and other deductions.

But other people in the PNOC have since made drastic moves. Paul Aquino, who succeeded former Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol as president of the PNOC-Energy Development Corp., reportedly cut his own pay by half when he assumed the post. *Abigail L. Ho*

Pay cuts for gov't fat cats

From page A1

willing to set the example.

Garcia, president and general manager of the GSIS, said he was voluntarily giving up P160,000 of his monthly take-home pay of about P200,000.

"I am heeding the call of the President to support the government's austerity program," Garcia said at a press briefing. He said he was seeking the advice of the budget and finance departments as to where he should remit his contribution.

Garcia's gross monthly salary totals to P350,000. The P200,000 is the net of a 31-percent tax and other deductions.

The GSIS chief said the P160,000 would be deducted from his net salary so as not to deprive the government of the taxes he pays.

Barin, who assumed her post as SEC chair only on Sept. 1, said she was willing to take a pay cut if Malacañang's austerity measures required it.

"If it has to be cut down, so be it," she told reporters after a forum at the Manila Overseas Press Club.

Barin said she had yet to know how much she would be paid. "When I accepted this office, the matter of how much I'm going to get was never an issue. Whatever is there, the more important thing on my part is, I have to prove that I can do the job," she said.

GOCCs, especially the heavily losing ones who depend on the government to bail them out of their debts, are being assailed for giving fat salaries and perks to their executives despite the fiscal crisis.

It was revealed Tuesday at a Senate hearing on the proposed 2005 national budget that GOCC executives were receiving between P5 million to P9 million in annual salaries and allowances.

Legal but immoral

By Boncodin's account, the President told the GOCC executives that although "not illegal," their salaries were "immoral."

Ms Arroyo also made it clear to her appointees that they could be sanctioned or even fired for not following orders.

"She told them she would not think twice in dismissing her appointees who would not observe the austerity measures outlined in Administrative Order No. 103," Boncodin said.

AO 103, signed on Aug. 31, contains Ms Arroyo's directive to all government companies, schools and financial institutions (GFIs) to curb the granting of new benefits, hiring of consultants, purchase of vehicles, foreign and local travel, sports and fiesta celebrations, paid media ads, overtime work and utility bills.

Boncodin said that in line with the President's most recent order, all GOCCs would be put under a rationalization program "to put in check the salaries and expenditures" of their top officials and directors.

She said the President announced during the meeting on Wednesday night that she was serving a "Russian dinner" to her guests to show how serious Malacanang was in implementing the austerity program.

The dinner turned out to be chicken and vegetables served on plastic plates with matching spoon and fork, Boncodin said. And the millionaire guests—whose luxury vehicles spilled out of the Palace's parking lot—were served only soft drinks.

Boncodin had previously bemoaned Malacañang's "powerlessness" to set the compensation of GOCC officers and directors. She said this was why Malacañang had asked Congress' help in amending the GOCCs' respective charters.

Best people

Barin called for cooperation among SEC employees in implementing the austerity program, but expressed the hope that it would not affect the rank-and-file employees.

Garcia said the GSIS was not like other GOCCs: "We do not impact on the national government's cash position, and we certainly do not contribute to its fiscal problem because we are a self-sustaining organization."

But in Davao, Sen. Manuel Roxas III said some GOCCs and GFIs were justified in giving hefty salaries to their executives.

He said the GSIS, Land Bank of the Philippines and Social Security System were some of the agencies that needed to keep a high profitability.

"At the LBP, where tens of billions of pesos are at stake, you cannot pick just anybody to head a department," Roxas told reporters at the opening of the Mindanao Business Conference.

He added: "We want to attract the best people who will not easily be tempted into making bad decisions to ensure that the government won't go bankrupt. To attract them, we need to pay them compensation that will be at par with, and even higher than, that in the private sector."

Roxas, however, said only those GOCCs demanding a "high level of special skills" could justify fat paychecks.

"If you ask me if a P10-million salary a year is justified, I would say that in some instances, yes," he said. "But if you ask me if the P9 million for the PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) is too high, I would say yes because the challenge of running it is not quite the same as running the LBP or the SSS."

A Commission on Audit report has shown that top PCSO executives were among the highest paid in the government.

Legal and voluntary

At the House, Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) called for legislation that would standardize the pay of executives of GOCCs and GFIs.

But he said such a law should also provide for a profit-sharing scheme so that those agencies "making money for the government" would be able to provide financial incentives to their executives.

For those not making money, executives "should live within an acceptable salary grade, and adjustments should cover only their cost of living allowance so that everyone works for his worth," Nograles also said.

In a joint statement, Lakas Representatives Edwin Uy (Isabela) and Aurelio Umali (Nueva Ecija) urged the concerned executives to voluntarily take a cut.

"They should be sensitive enough amid the financial troubles facing our nation," Uy said.

Umali said that because it would take time to amend these agencies' respective charters, their officials must "undertake their own sacrifice."

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran suggested an extreme option: Charge these executives with plunder.

"By allowing these executives to ... accumulate ill-gotten wealth for themselves, President Macapagal-Arroyo is a party to the crime. She can and should also be charged with plunder," Beltran also said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo challenged Ms Arroyo to demand the resignation of GOCC executives who would not give up part of their high salaries.

Ocampo said Malacañang's stance that it was powerless to act on the matter was "simply unacceptable."

In a speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Speaker Jose de Venecia said he would craft an executive-legislative measure that would scale down the salaries, benefits and other perks being enjoyed by GOCC executives.

De Venecia said he would soon meet with Boncodin, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to finalize the measure. *With reports from Michelle V. Remo, Elizabeth L. Sanchez, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1515 Series of 2004

Manila's list of 10 most wanted suspects gets trimmed by 2 names

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE LIST of the ten most wanted suspected robbers in Manila is now two names less.

Suspected overpass robbers Danny Rosaroso and Rendentor Balcos, were nabbed in Sampaloc the other day as part of the Western Police District's (WPD) Oplan Manhunt Bravo after eight months of hiding from authorities.

Balcos and Rosaroso occupied the 5th and 6th spots on the list and had outstanding arrest warrants issued by Manila Judge Antonio de Castro for a robbery case.

During his arrest Wednesday night, Rosaroso allegedly tried to shoot policemen from the WPD Warrant Section, who were prompted to shoot him in the right foot.

Police said they were able to corner Rosaroso as he was about to leave his house, but upon seeing them, he reportedly ran back and took a gun.

After he was shot, he was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila for treatment and is now detained at the WPD headquarters. Police also seized a .38-caliber revolver firearm with six bullets from him.

Police said Balcos and Rosaroso were key suspects in the series of robberies at the España and Lacson overpass in Sampaloc, which is near the University Belt.

The warrants for their arrest were issued after the two were tagged as the suspects in the holdup of Sonny Boy Obayan at the overpass in January this year.

Balcos and Rosaroso, allegedly armed with .38-caliber revolvers, reportedly took Obayan's cellular phone, diver's wristwatch and P10,000 in cash.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday also said that the police would summon all those who have been robbed at the Lacson España overpass to identify the suspects.

Caloocan bans towing services

By Tina G. Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Enrico Echiverri has ordered all towing services, including those of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Northern Traffic Enforcement Group (NTEG), banned in the city, following complaints from motorists daily harassed by abusive towing personnel.

"These firms are not authorized to do so. And as of today, there are no towing services officially allowed to operate in the city," he said.

Echiverri added that even those accredited by the MMDA and the NTEG would not be allowed to operate in the city.

"I have been receiving reports that towing personnel are not really after helping stalled motorists but are out to take in as many vehicles they can for the exorbitant fees they collect. We cannot allow them to take advantage of the motorists," he said.

The mayor added that his order was backed by a local ordinance which mandates penalties for violators.

He stressed that he did not want a repeat of the "Jadewell experience," where helpless motorists fell victim to illegal towing operations and then to extortion.

Exclusive right

The previous administration under Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo gave exclusive right to Jadewell Parking Systems (JPS) to tow illegally parked and stalled vehicles in the city.

Shortly after Echiverri took over Malonzo's post, he ordered Jadewell to cease and desist from its towing operations because of alleged abuses and for allegedly shortchanging the city government.

The towing company reportedly remitted only five percent instead of the 20 percent on gross profits or 50 percent of net profits, whichever was higher as stipulated in the memorandum of agreement signed by Malonzo and JPS president and general manager Rogelio Tan in 2002.

Echiverri likewise urged residents to report to authorities anybody violating the order, saying that aside from putting a stop to the reported abuses of unscrupulous towing companies, he wanted the motorists of Caloocan to be disciplined, responsible vehicle owners.

"They should always check the condition of their vehicles so they would avoid getting stalled. They should not park in no parking areas. If they get stalled, they should bring their vehicle to a place where they would not block the free flow of traffic," he said.

3 bullets follow text message

By Nancy C. Carvajal

DEATH came with a warning.

Before shooting their victim, four unidentified suspects sent him a text message telling him to enjoy his dinner because it would be his last.

Minutes later, Wednesday night, several bullets felled Abdullazez Kuday, 37, police said.

Kuday was a member of Taguig's Bantay Bayan or mayor's squad.

The suspects also shot and wounded his two young sons, aged 7 and 12.

Police said Kuday was knocking at the door of his house on Marawi Street, Maharlika Village, Taguig, when the suspects struck from behind.

"There are three bullet holes on our plywood door," said Bairasad, the victim's wife. She said she was in the comfort room when she heard several gunshots.

Kuday said she saw her two sons lying down on the floor bleeding when she came out of the comfort room. With their door already opened, she noticed her husband on the stairs bleeding and breathing heavily, trying to reach out to her.

Abdullazez was declared dead on arrival at the Pateros District hospital, while the two other victims were brought to Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

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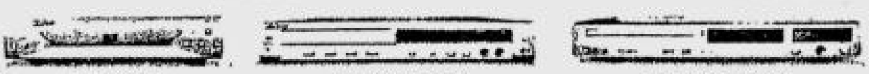

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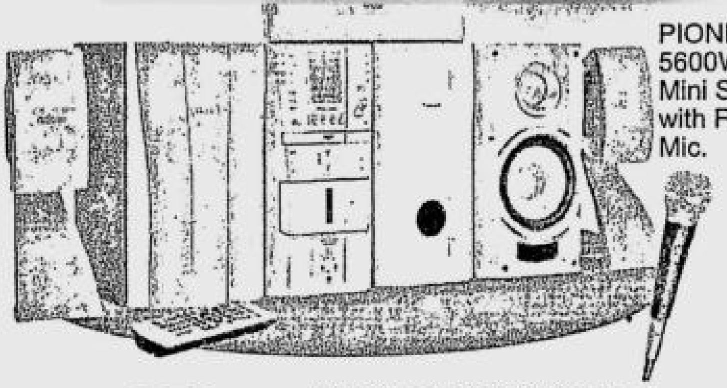

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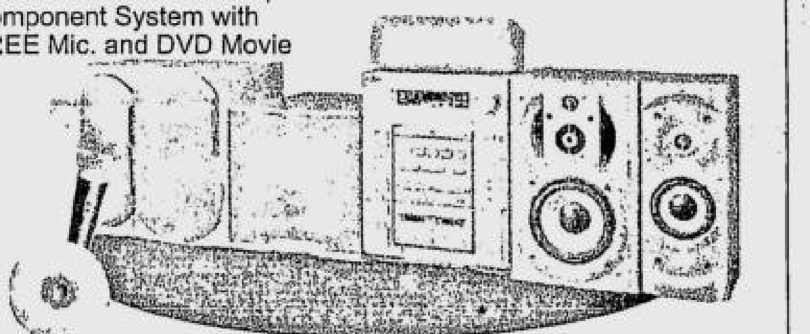

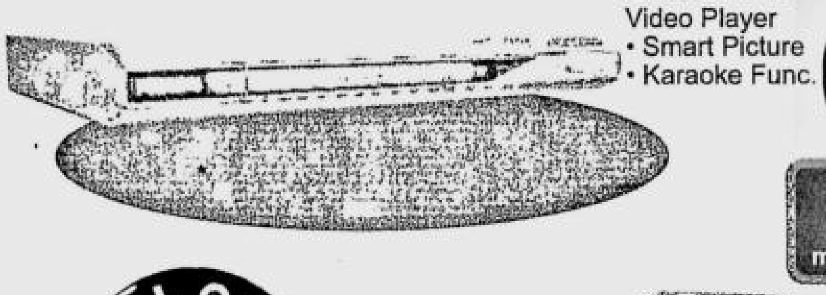

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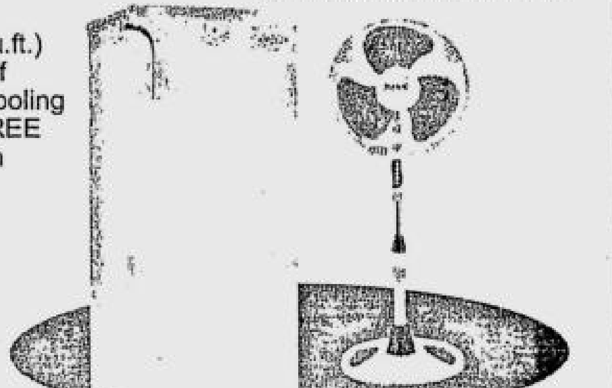

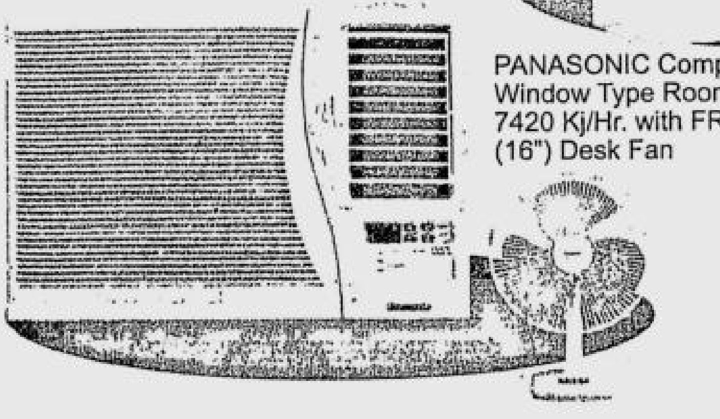

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Makati traffic men go to charm school

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NO, THEY are not models. They are Makati City traffic enforcers.

In an effort to professionalize its traffic personnel, the city government will be sending 25 of its traffic enforcers to a one-day "personality enhancement" course at the prestigious John Robert Powers training center.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the training would be part of Makati's campaign to show the professional side of government service.

"We are presenting government employees who are able to project a positive image of the city and their uniform," Binay said in a statement.

The mayor said enforcers who would complete the course would be deployed in the city's Central Business District, where major local and multinational firms, banks, hotels and shopping malls are located.

The course, specially designed for the city's traffic enforcers, will stress the importance of providing them "with the necessary skills to be the best in being a law enforcer."

Vissia Aldon, John Robert Powers human resource department director, said the total package would have cost P90,000. However, she added, the center was giving a hefty P40,000 discount to the city.

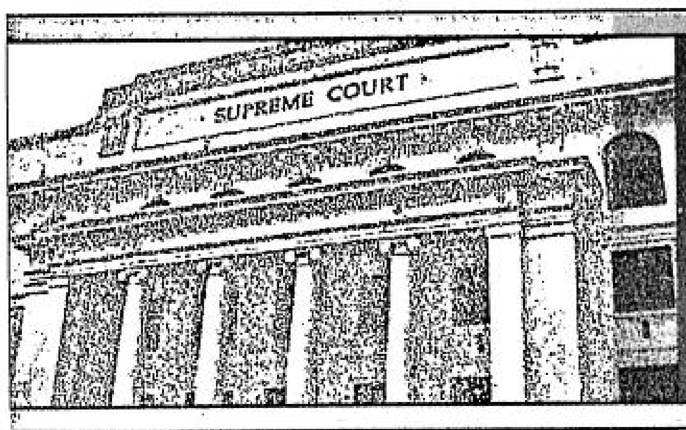
The institute cited a study conducted at a major United States university that said majority of people make their impressions of others based on physical, nonverbal images, including appearance and body language.

The course will cover poise, posture, body language dynamics, grooming and communication skills.

The training will also include decorum in public places and special occasions, dealing with difficult clients, techniques for conversational appeal, and maintaining poise and courage under fire.

At the end of their training, the traffic enforcers will get free grooming services from the institute's grooming experts.

A follow-up training will be conducted for the traffic officers after two weeks.



The Awards for Judicial Excellence

Today, we honor our fellow workers who have been chosen as this year's exemplary models of excellence in service within our judiciary. They are among those who have not only sworn themselves to the service of their country, but also dedicated their lives in the service of justice and law.

Hilario G. Davide, Jr.
Chief Justice

Awards Ceremony
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RTC, Branch 138, Makati City
Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano Award and Best Decision in Civil Case, Second Level Courts

JUDGE MYRNA DIMARANAN-VIDAL
RTC, Branch 127, Caloocan City
Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos Award

JUDGE AGUSTIN S. DIZON
RTC, Branch 80, Quezon City
Chief Justice Ramon Avanceña Award

JUDGE MYRA V. GARCIA-FERNANDEZ
MeTC, Branch 10, Manila
Outstanding Metropolitan Trial Court Judge for 2004 and Best Decision in Civil Case, First Level Courts

JUDGE RALPH S. LEE
MeTC, Branch 38, Quezon City
Outstanding Metropolitan Court Trial Judge for 2004

JUDGE DANILO P. CAMACHO
MTCC I, Baguio City
Outstanding Municipal Trial Court in Cities Judge and Best Decision in Criminal Case, First Level Courts

ATTY. ENGRACIO M. ESCASINAS, JR.
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MTCC, Dumaguete City
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MS. BABY EMILY R. YARRA
MeTC, Branch 7, Manila
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JUDGE MARISSA MACARAIG-GUILLEN
RTC, Branch 60, Makati City
Best Pre-Trial Judge in Second Level Courts

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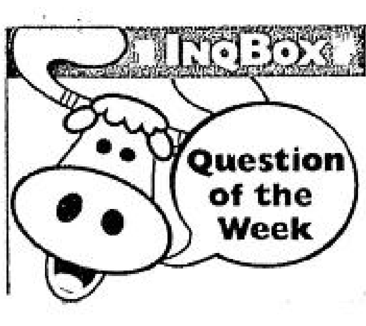

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ONE-WEEK TRIAL

Air-con buses drop minimum fare to ₱7.50

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO commuters using air-conditioned buses will be paying lower fares next week as more than 1,000 buses plying the metropolis would try to match the fare of its perceived rival, the Metrostar Express or MRT 3.

The buses also compete with FX taxi cabs for passengers.

Claire dela Fuente, chair of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (Imboa) yesterday said that operators of air-con buses in Metro Manila had agreed to reduce the minimum fare to P7.50 from P9 covering the first 5 km starting Monday, Sept. 20.

But the fare cut would be implemented only for a one-week trial period.

"For a week, we would like to see if there is truth to allegations that the decreased ridership of air-con buses was due to our fare that is much higher compared to other modes of transportation, especially the MRT," Dela Fuente said.

Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chair Maria Elena Bautista said the load capacity of air-con buses in the metropolis had eased to only 53 percent. With the fare cut, Metro air-con buses would like to bring up ridership rates back to 80 to 85 percent of their capacity.

First move

Bautista said the Imboa fare cut should set a precedent for other transport groups that have pending fare hike petitions before the LTFRB.

"This should show other transport groups that they can still survive even if they charge lower fares. In the end, it would still be a business decision for the other transport groups," Bautista.

De la Fuente said the air-con metro buses would match the P15 fare of the MRT 3 from North Edsa to Taft Avenue near Baclaran.

Outside of the MRT 3 route, air-con buses would charge only an additional fare of P1.25 for each succeeding kilometer after the minimum distance, from a previous charge of P1.50.

Dela Fuente said that if patronage improves as a result of the trial fare cut, bus operators may likely lower the rates permanently.

"This is our gift to commuters who are being swamped by rising fuel costs and prices of commodities," said Dela Fuente.

Imboa is the largest group of operators of air-conditioned buses in Metro Manila. Dela Fuente claimed the group accounts for more than 50 percent of the buses plying in the metropolis.

But Alex Yague, the president of the umbrella organization of bus operators said that there were only about 3,500 buses plying Metro Manila.

Strike set

Of this, he said, more than 50 percent are classified as buses with no air conditioning. There are close to 100,000 buses operating nationwide.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transportation Operators yesterday said it was preparing to hold a nationwide strike on Sept. 27 to demand the resignation of Bautista.

Singers put up bold front

By Leila B. Salaverria

NINE scantily-clad women who said they were singers were arrested as they caused a traffic jam in Manila when they posed seminude at the Rajah Sulayman Park across Roxas Boulevard yesterday afternoon.

Some of the women said they were protesting an SM malls management decision banning the showing of bold films in their cinemas. Others said they were only doing a pictorial for a new album. Police said the daring showgirls would face grave scandal charges.

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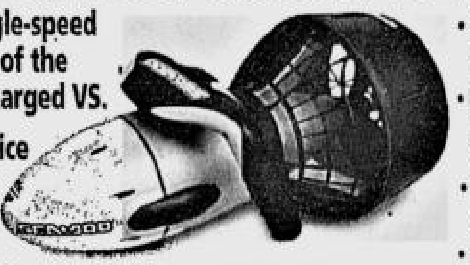

117 to the rescue of 30 women

By Nelson F. Flores

A CALL made to the Department of Interior and Local Government's Patrol 117 led police to a Quezon City house where 30 women, including three minors, were allegedly being held against their will.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said the detainees were applying for jobs abroad but were reportedly detained by their recruiter in a house in Kamuning. He said the call was received last Friday from a relative of one of the detained women.

Based on Patrol 117 records, the informant claimed to have received a text message from her sister alleging that she and several others were being held against their will at 173 Unit D-8 Wilvic Townhomes along Scout Limbaga Street.

After verifying the information, the police immediately proceeded to the house where they found the women.

However, they failed to arrest the alleged recruiter who was identified as Rowena Toledo of Firjamm Promotions, but were able to take in for questioning a helper identified as Luz Valdez.

Reyes said charges of illegal detention, illegal recruitment, unfair labor practice and violation of Republic Act 7610 would be filed by the police against Toledo and her staff.

The incident showed the valuable contribution of Patrol 117 in the suppression of criminality, the DILG chief said.

At the same time, Reyes stressed that the P5.50 fee that would be charged for every call at Patrol 117 starting Dec. 1 would not be used to help the government raise revenues to help curb the fiscal deficit.

Reyes made the clarification after learning of the public's skepticism following the recent announcement that calls to Patrol 17 would be charged a minimal fee. He said that fees collected from Patrol 117 would be used to further improve the services of the emergency hotline program.

"The money will be used to increase manpower, train more personnel, and improve operations and maintenance needs," Reyes explained.

APB meet today

THE ALPHA Phi Beta Chancery will hold its monthly fellowship meeting today at the Gabaldon Room, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. The meeting will be hosted by UP Law Class '56 Alphans, coordinated by Justice Willy Agnir.

The Chancery is composed of the alumni members of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity of the University of the Philippines.

One of the Chancery's projects is the National Center for Justice, which accepts legal representation in cases of potential miscarriage or denial of justice to indigent litigants.

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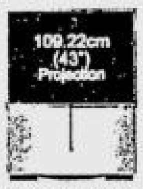

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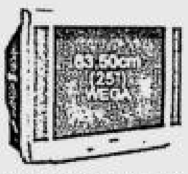

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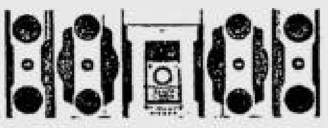

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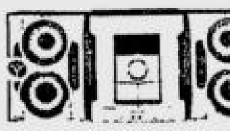

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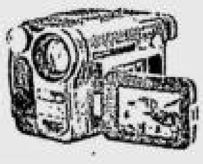

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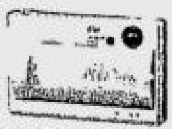

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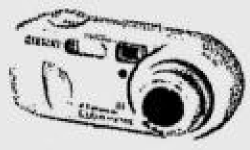

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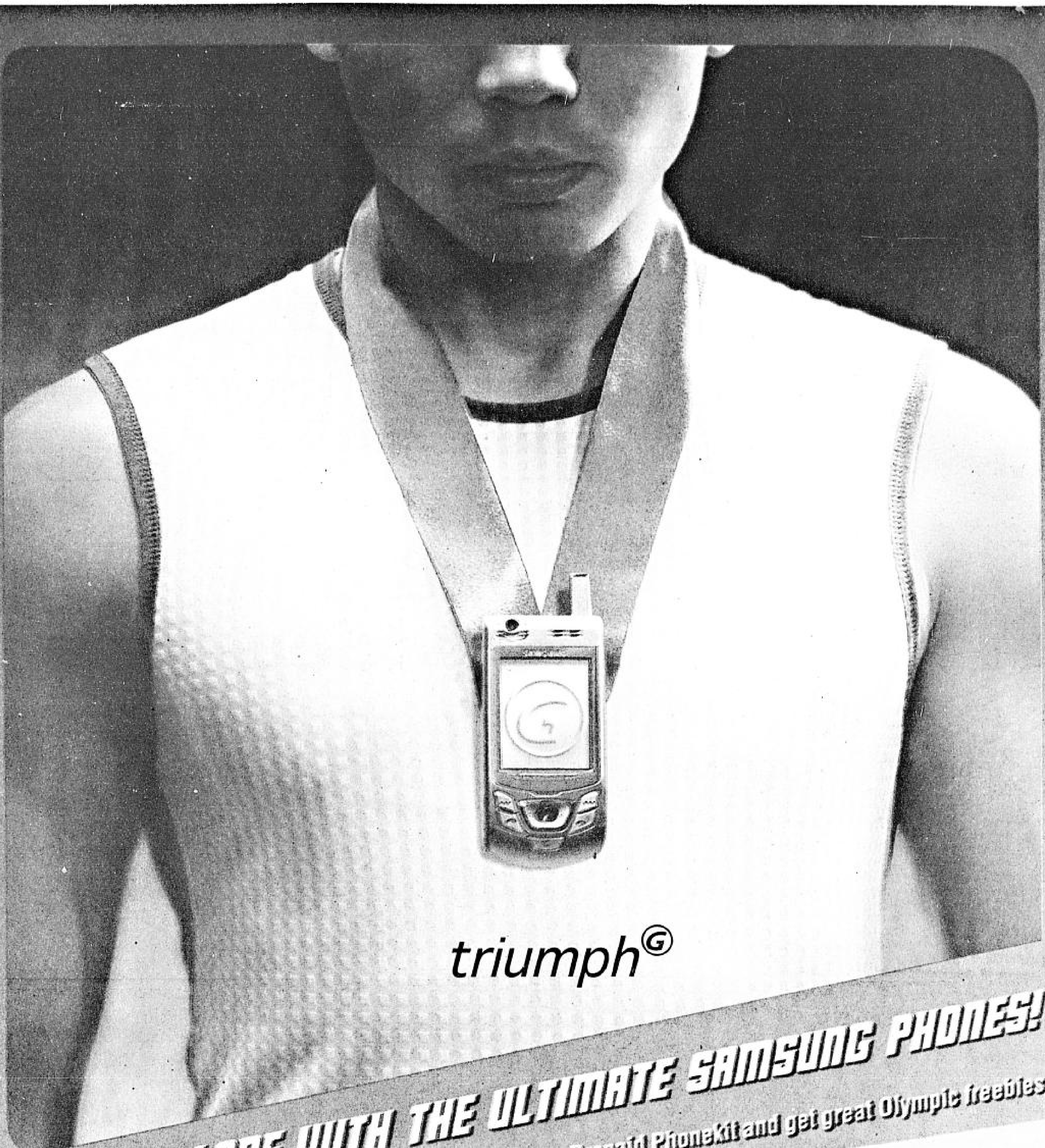

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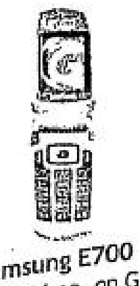

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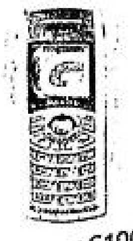

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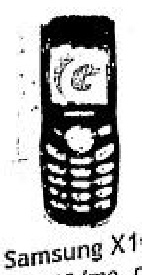

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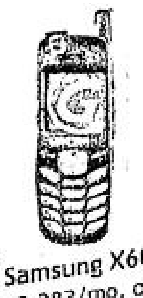

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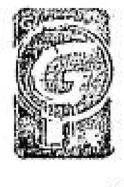

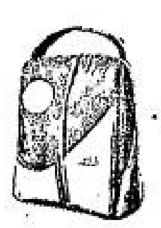

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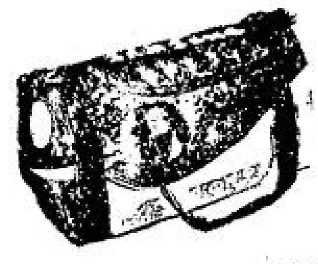

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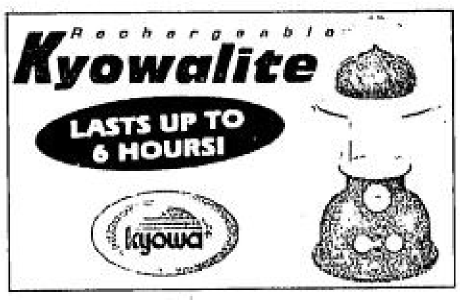
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Tams repulse Warriors, secure 1st Finals berth

DON Yabut of FEU barrels his way to the basket against UE's RJ Masbang during their Final Four match at Philsports. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT TOOK some tense-filled moments before the Far Eastern Tamaraws got their foot back in the Finals door.

FEU claimed the first title berth after the defending champion rose from an 11-point deficit in the second half to dispose off the feisty University of the East Warriors, 71-64, yesterday in the semifinals of the UAAP senior basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

Dennis Miranda shot 19 points and drew ample help from the seasoned cast of Mark Isip, Arwind Santos and Don Yabut during the Tamaraws' second-half charge from 33-44 in the third quarter.

"Everybody was positive coming into the second half. The veterans talked to the team and so everybody got their focus back," said FEU coach Koy Banal after booking their second straight Finals appearance.

The De La Salle Archers shoot for the second championship slot this Sunday against their archrivals, the Ateneo Eagles, at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tamaraws mounted a 17-7 siege to wrest the lead at 50-48, less than four minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Morayta contingent then opened the final period with a 12-2 assault to boost its advantage to 66-54.

The Warriors gave it a desperate rush as Paolo Hubalde ignited an 8-2 run that whittled the lead to 68-62 in the last two minutes.

But UE's inexperience showed in the end as the Warriors committed three turnovers in the dying minutes.

The much taller FEU lineup also outrebounded UE, 44-33.

Earlier, the La Salle Bengals stunned top-seed UST Tiger Cubs, 61-52, to force a playoff match in the junior semifinals.

The scores:

FEU 71—Miranda 19, Isip 17, Santos 12, Yabut 9, Rizada 6, Chan 6, Garcia 2, Mangahas 0, Dela Cruz 0, Cutler 0.

UE 64—Hubalde 16, Saguindel 16, Canaleta 12, Arellano 8, Labagala 8, Dizon 2, Masbang 2, Napo 0.

Quarters: 20-20, 33-41, 54-52, 71-64.

Historic NCAA crown duel on

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Jrs Playoff)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs PCU (Srs-Game 1 Finals)

A HISTORIC NCAA basketball title series unfolds today when the University of Perpetual Help Altas and the Philippine Christian U Dolphins vie for their first championship crown in the best-of-three finals at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Altas and the Dolphins defied preseason forecast as they transformed themselves from doormat teams to title contenders this season.

But the Dolphins will miss coach Loreto Tolentino, who is serving a one-game suspension. Commissioner Ricky Palou earlier recommended the suspension after Tolentino confronted the technical committee to protest a call in PCU's game against Letran Wednesday.

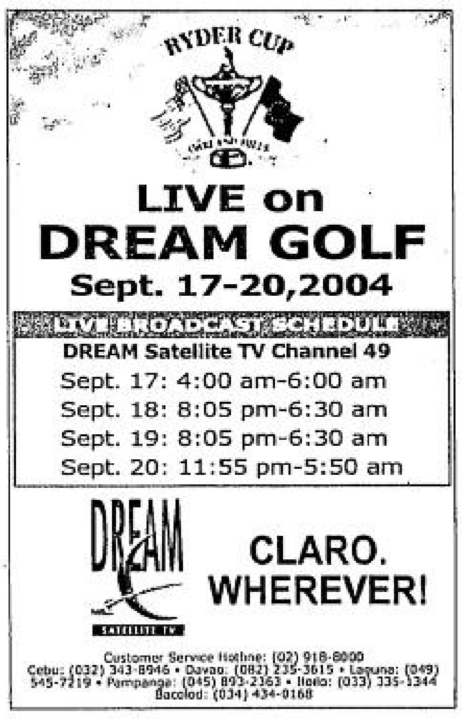
Both squads topped the eliminations with 10-4 records.

Although both were pushed to the brink in the Final Four, PCU eventually foiled the Letran Knights' title defense with an 85-80 overtime win, while Perpetual edged the San Beda Lions, 58-56, in their playoff.

The Dolphins are in their first finals appearance since joining the league in 1996, while the Altas will troop to the championship match for the first time in 15 years.

"We're here so we'll go get the championship," said Altas coach Bai Cristobal.

The teams split their encounters. Perpetual won in the first round, 84-71, but PCU countered with a 71-62 decision in the second round. *Jasmine W. Payo*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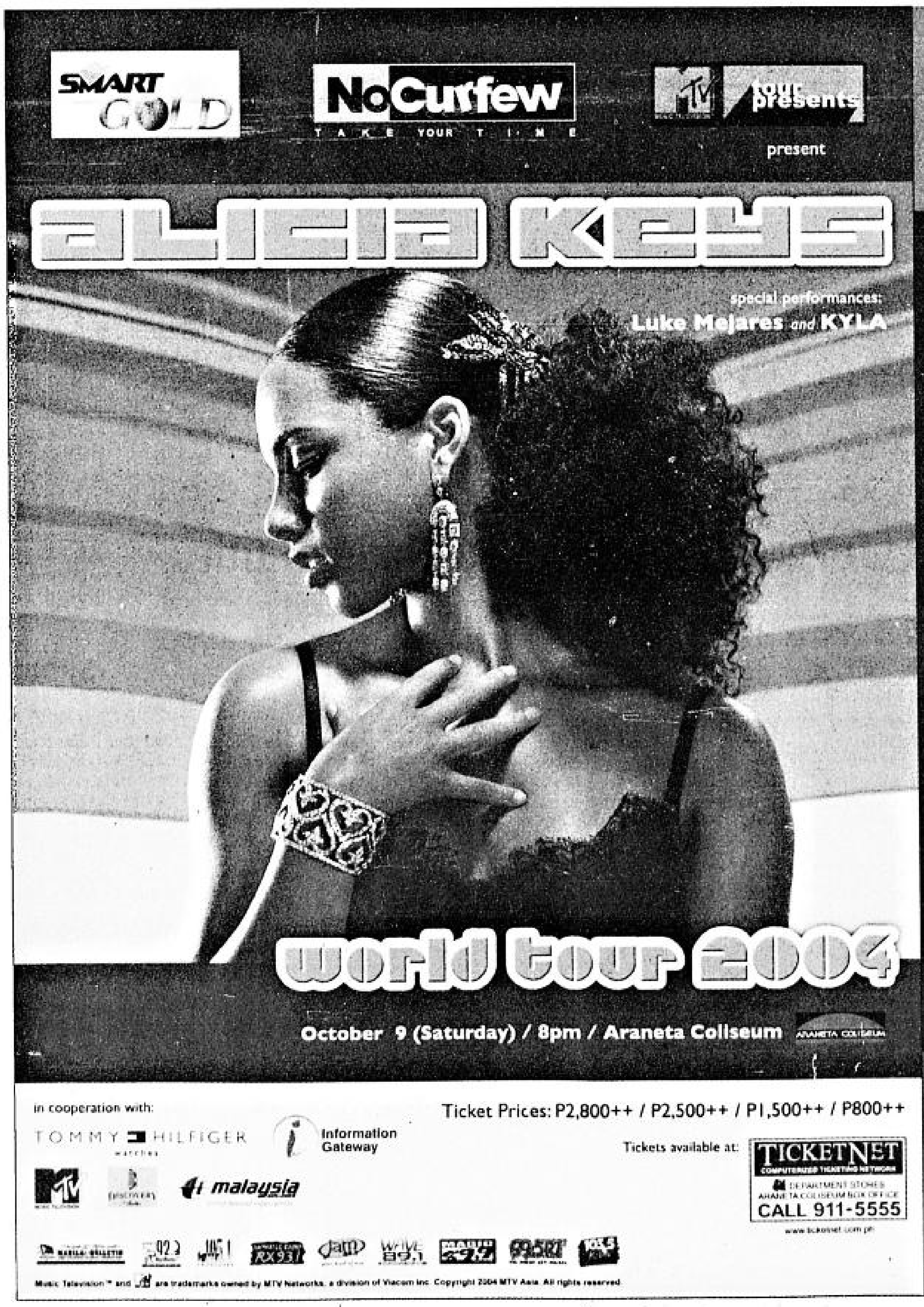
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NCFP seeds GMs Torre, Antonio, too

By Roy Luarca

TORRE

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PERENNIAL national team mainstays Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio will again be at the vanguard of the Philippine campaign in the 36th Chess Olympiad set next month in Majorca, Spain.

In recognition of the experience of Torre and Antonio, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive board yesterday decided to seed the two Grandmasters who have manned the boards 1 and 2 for the RP team for more than a decade.

They will join International Master Mark Paragua, the country's top-rated player who has been seeded earlier, in the six-man team to the biennial meet.

NCFP president Go Teng Kok invoked national interest in the outright inclusion of Torre and Antonio.

"We need to send the best and the brightest to the Olympiad. Torre and Antonio have already proven their worth countless times. They need to be in the Philippine team to bolster our chances," said Go.

The seeding of Paragua, Torre and Antonio left only three more slots to be disputed in the national chess championships starting tomorrow in Tagaytay City.

Go, however, assured the other aspirants that they will be given priority in the selection of players for the next international tournament after the Olympiad.

Another GM, Nelson Mariano, chose to skip the event in protest of the outright inclusion of Paragua. Mariano did not submit his credentials to the NCFP.

Aspirants to the national chessfest include reigning RP juniors champion National Master Oliver Barbosa and 10-year-old Wesley So, the youngest qualifier ever.

The other finalists are IM Barlo Nadera, FM Jesse Noel Sales, NMs Mirabeau Maga, Rolando Nolte, Emmanuel Senador, Roland Joseph Perez, Darwin Laylo, Rodolfo Diaz and Leonardo Carlos.

IMs Chito Garma and Petronio Roca took the place of GM Bong Villamayor, who is working abroad, and Paragua.

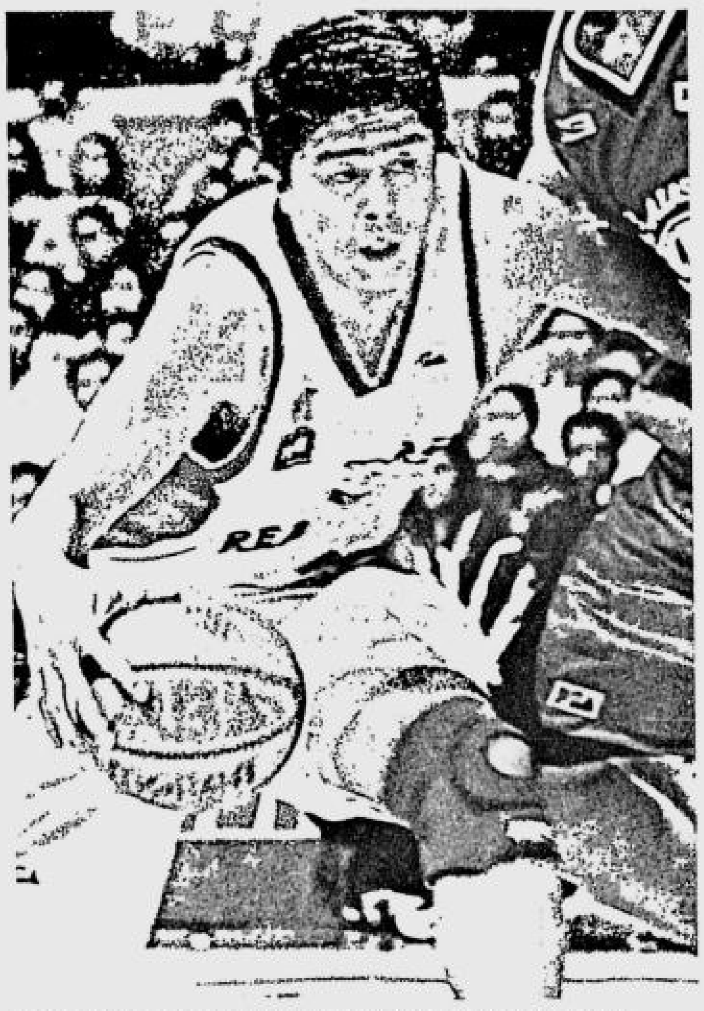
Reserves Famie Fazon of Sorsogon and FM Fernie Donguines will advance to the national finals following the seeding of Torre and Antonio.

All participants in the event hosted by Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino must be in the venue by 10 a.m. for the drawing of lots.

In the distaff side, seeded players and SEAG veterans WIM Beverly Mendoza, Cristine Rose Mariano, WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao and WNM Kathryn Ann Cruz are expected to face stiff challenge from top qualifier WNM Aices Salvador, a 14-year old standout of University of the East.

With a report from Marlon Bernardino

Duremdes lifts Realtors past Korean cagers



KENNETH Duremdes of Sta. Lucia is back to his old form after an injury-forced layoff, scoring 38 points to lead the Realtors. PDI PHOTO

KENNETH Duremdes fired 38 points as the Sta. Lucia Realtors eked out a 106-103 victory Wednesday over the visiting SK Knights at the start of the PBA-Korean Basketball League goodwill series at the Caruncho gym in Pasig City.

Duremdes, who appeared comfortable with the new ball the league will use this season, scored 27 points in the second half, including a string of nine that broke a 94-all count and put the Realtors ahead, 103-96, with 2:11 to go.

The South Koreans rallied behind import Kris Lang, who drained a jumper that moved them within 103-104, 18 seconds to play.

Among the visitors were Sang Hyun Cho and Hee Chul Chun, two members of the South Korean team that dealt the RP squad a painful loss in the semifinals of the 2002 Asian Games basketball tournament.

The two teams went at each other hard right at the opening tip with the Knights' two American reinforcements—former Purefoods imports Leonard White and Lang—keeping the Koreans in the thick of things.

The game was halted briefly in the second quarter when Dennis Espino and White almost came to blows after some pushing and shoving.

The Realtors dictated the pace for the most part and posted the game's biggest lead at 75-64 late in the third quarter. But the Koreans, beefed up by 10 members of the men's and junior national teams, refused to roll over.

The Knights were scheduled to play the Coca-Cola Tigers at the Arellano gym late yesterday.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 106— Duremdes 38, Espino 16, Mendoza 15, Francisco 13, Aquino, 11, Omolon 6, Adriano 4, Santos 3, Gonzales 0, Ong 0, Victolero 0, Cuan 0.

SK KNIGHTS 103—White 36, Cho 28, Lang 15, Chun 9, Lim 7, Jeon 4, Park 2, Kim 2.

Quarters: 30-29, 56-50, 79-73, 106-103.

Bibat hangs on, but RP blows team bid

By Musong R. Castillo

MICHAEL Bibat kept the overall lead but the Philippines gave away the team title in the Singapore Amateur championship yesterday at the Serapong layout of the Sentosa Golf Club.

Bibat shot a four-over 76 and Boyet Saragoza stumbled with a second straight 82 and Singapore escaped with the team trophy by two shots after Choo Tze Huang accounted for a 74 and Tan Feldman signed for a 71 for a final 446 tally.

But the 20-year-old Bibat still led the individual race by five shots over Choo at 212, even as Tommy Manotoc, campaigning only in the individual event, shot a 73 to barge into the top 10 with a 224 total.

Saragoza was out of it with a 232 aggregate going into the final round today.

"I don't know what happened. I was playing pretty well, going to No. 11 at one-under," said Bibat in an overseas call. "It would have been sweet, going home with the team championship."

The sixth placer in the Putra Cup last month, Bibat bogeyed 11, 12, 15 and the final two holes.

Meanwhile, reigning RP champ Jun Bemis yesterday scored a two-under 70 at Villamor and sustained his march toward a top three finish in the evaluation series for the team to the World Amateur.

The 33-year-old father of one chipped in from the fringe on the par-5 18th for an eagle to seal one of two under-par rounds for the day.

Artemio Murakami also had a 70 behind a five-birdie, three-bogey effort.

Juvic Pagunsan was hardly ruffled atop the standings despite going four-over in the last five holes for a 73. He has a comfortable 490 total heading into the final round of the eight-day, 144-hole series at The Riviera's Langer course today.

Bemis, also the winner of the DHL Amateur, now has a 503 aggregate.

Marvin Dumandan scored a fat 7 on No. 11, bogeyed 14 and double bogeyed 15 and 16 for a 79. He was in fourth position with a 513 total, one shot behind Murakami and just three in front of former caddies' champion Jay Bayron (71).

Meanwhile, Anya Tanpinco continued to hold sway in the ladies' side, shooting a 79 for a 545 total, eight strokes ahead of Carmelette Villaroman (82). Lora Roberto shot a 76 for a 554 total, and Jayvee Agojo turned in a 79.

Akiko's thoughts

ATLANTA Olympian Gillian Akiko Thomson will be the motivational speaker in the Leadership Forum set today at the St. Michael's College Auditorium in Iligan City. Akiko will share her experiences and anecdotes in swimming, including her thoughts on Olympism. She served as a volunteer in the recent Athens Olympic Games. The ninth leg of the forum is organized under the Globe Gentxt School Trip 14 City Campus Tour.

UM, CEU forge showdown for Naascu title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY of Manila hammered Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay into submission, 81-72, at the Rizal Coliseum yesterday to reach the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball finals.

Centro Escolar University later nosed out St. Clare College of Caloocan, 79-77, in their own Final Four duel to arrange a title showdown with UM.

The best-of-five finals will begin Sept. 23 also at the Rizal Coliseum.

UM led by as many as 23 points in its march to its fourth straight finals and 71st consecutive win in the league.

The scores:

UM 81—Gomez 31, Bernados 12, Regalado 12, Salem 8, Santiago 8, Uao 4, Litonjua 2, Delostrinos 2, Vidanes 0, Payabyab 0.

PLP 72—Asay 15, David 14, Gumapas 13, Gawat 12, Somera 8, Navo 6, Biala 2, Galindez 2, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 49-26, 61-51, 81-72

At the Arellano Gym

CEU 79—Carilo 17, Gatdula 13, Cristobal 13, Macasaet 12, Manajero 12, Salamat 4, J. Romulo 3, F. Romulo 3, Dayag 2, Bacsal 0, Tobis 0.

St. Clare 77—Yamabao 18, , Manalili 12, Dizon 0, Deveraturda 10, Geraldino 6, Manalansan 6, Diswe 5, Manas 4, Balanay 3, San Pedro 3, Orca 0, Domdom 0

Quarters: 18-22, 31-46, 57-55, 79-77.

The right way

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ALWAYS, the surest way to choose players for overseas battles is to subject all candidates to a qualifying tournament. Highly rated or not, previous winners or not, there should be no exception. All of them should go through the wringer.

A good player will almost always be good, no matter what.

OK, I grant, there are times when even the best can play his/her worst. On a given day, the best can play like any cellar-dweller.

But that is more the exception than the rule.

If one is good, one will be there at the top most of the time, if not all of the time. As they say, if you're good, you're lucky.

Take Tiger Woods.

He wasn't always winning. He won just once during the last 15 months, but because he is that good, he was always there, among the top finishers almost in every tournament that he played in. He wasn't winning, yes, but his consistency in being among the top finishers in tournaments kept him No. 1 for 264 uninterrupted weeks. When he lost his No. 1 ranking a while back, he lost it fighting, finishing second at the Deutchbank Open in Massachusetts to the one who ousted him—Vijay Singh.

Even in defeat, Tiger Woods showed the true mark of a champion: "Winning takes care of the ranking."

Indeed, one has to keep winning to stay atop the field, to be among the best all the time, if not the best most of the time.

Let me now cite the system the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) is currently using in selecting players to compose the national team for the World Team Golf Amateurs set for next month in Puerto Rico. It deserves applause because it does away with favoritism.

The system calls for the best and the brightest to fight it out for precious slots, each one not sparing quarters.

Now here's the beautiful catch to the system. Two of the aspirants are jockeying for positions while competing in the Singapore Open—Michael Bibat and Boyet Saragoza. They are there because the tournament coincided with the NGAP qualifying. In order for them not to "miss" the qualifying, their scores in Singapore were accepted as their rounds from the fifth to the eighth day in the ongoing NGAP qualifying.

I doff my hat to that, particularly to Louie Fernandez, the NGAP secretary general who pushed for that bailout. If this were the Chess Olympiad, Fernandez would have won the brilliancy prize hands down.

Thus the four rounds played by Bibat and Saragoza in Singapore would be added to the other four rounds they had completed here before they left.

After the completion of 144 holes today, the NGAP will evaluate the performance of the aspirants—Juvic Pagunsan, Marvin Dumandan, Artemio Murakami, Jun Bemis, JR Tanpinco, Jay Bayron, Gene Bondoc, Erwin Vinluan, Lawrence Negrido, Bibat and Saragoza.

No, the top three players do not automatically clinch slots in the three-man national team. Contrary to reports, this is not a battle for the top two positions, with the third slot to be given to the so-called "captain's choice" a la Ryder Cup.

"We called it qualifying, yes, but with the idea of evaluating their performances after eight days of action," said Fernandez. "We will study the trend of their scores on a day-to-day basis before we come up with the final lineup. We are doing this because, remember, the World Amateurs is team play, meaning no individual winners here."

It was Fernandez who captained the Philippine squad to a best-ever finish of third place by a Filipino team in this Olympics of golf in Malaysia in 2002.

However, if Juvic Pagunsan, a mainstay of our team in Malaysia in 2002, emerges No. 1 after today's eighth and final round, I think it is but logical to include him to the Puerto Rico mission. As to the other two members, I leave it to the discretion of Fernandez & Co.

I hope that those chosen to compose the team wear their badge of honor as though they earned it after defending to the death their land against foreign invaders.

In fact, all players sent abroad should have that patriotic feeling pinned on their hearts at all times.

Marho at full gallop

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE FACT that it is now 30 years old is proof enough that the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners has come of age. Over time, it has emerged as the most popular and dominant local organization of horse breeders and race horse owners. And to mark its 30th year, the association will stage—rain or shine—the 2004 Marho Pearl Stakes Races tomorrow and Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

"More than a celebration of its 30th anniversary, this weekend affair will be a fitting tribute to the country's most respected horsemen who founded the premier organization," said Marho president Putch Puyat, the third man of the so-called "Philippine Racing Big 3" that include Marho chair Sandy Javier and racing heart-throb Hermie Esguerra, owner of multi-awarded Wind Blown.

With Smart Communications Inc. as major sponsor, the two-day racing extravaganza will be highlighted by Sunday's blockbuster "Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup," a 1,600-meter race held in honor of the Marho founding chair and president. A whopping P1 million will go to the winner of the race featuring eight battle-tested horses led by West Bound, Neat Laurel, Cutting Edge and Sexiest. The other classy entries are Dandansoy and imports Being There, Ouzo and Suonos.

Among the betting favorites in Sunday's Cojuangco Cup are 2003 top horse West Bound, a 4-year-old chestnut colt owned by C&H Enterprises. Hermie Esguerra's never-say-die Neat Laurel, winner of the 2004 PSA Cup and the second leg of the Philracom Imported Stakes race; Putch Puyat's sensational Cutting Edge, winner of the inaugural WHIP Cup, and up-and-coming Sexiest of noted breeder Sandy Javier.

Fourteen other cup races will be held in honor of Marho pioneers Macario Asistio Sr., Antonio Araneta, Angel Castaño, Pedro Cojuangco, Jose Cojuangco Jr., Asterio Favis, Federico Moreno, Emilio Espinosa Sr., former Manila mayor Ramon Bagatsing, Elias Coscolluela, Isidro Rodriguez Sr., Jose Revilla, Constante Rubio, Samuel Sharutt, Augusto Santos and Conrado Trinidad.

"It is truly a good year for the horseracing industry," Philippine Racing Commission chair Jaime Dilag said at a recent interview, citing the full support by the sport's direct players like the horse owners, jockeys, trainers, stakes race sponsors and, last but not the least, the racing public.

This weekend's Pearl Stakes series is a preview of Marho's year-ending Breeders' Cup, one of the richest and hottest horseracing events in contemporary Philippine sports history.

***

TOOTHLESS BAN? Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga has filed House Bill No. 1611 seeking to ban public officials from entering and playing at the casinos. Also prohibited from patronizing the casinos are the spouses of government officials. According to Barinaga, his bill also covers the spouses of government officials because "a spouse's behavior in public would necessarily reflect on the image of the government official." Violators would face six months to one-year imprisonment and a fine ranging from P10,000 to P30,000 or both.

The Zamboanga lawmaker said the bill would complement Presidential Decree 1869, which allows the government to operate casinos but prohibits public officials and employees from entering and playing at casinos.

However, I think the ban should also apply to other gambling activities like cockfighting where public officials bet thousands of pesos per match.

These public officials would be setting a good example to the people by voluntarily avoiding being seen at the casinos and the cockpits.

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate clinic starts

THE SIXTH series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic will start this Saturday at the following venues: Notre Dame of Greater Manila Area (NDGMA) in Grace Park, Caloocan City; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila, and at the 4/F J&F Divino Building, 967 Aurora Boulevard near the LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. The clinics are open to players five to 18 years old. For inquiries, call MCC at 8268560 and 0916-8521069.

Pasay 4-stag derby tonight

THE PASAY Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA), a group of big-time cockers, presents its first 4-stag derby tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Derby enthusiasts are assured of more than 50 fights, said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Leading the cast are 2004 PCCA Cocker of the Year winners Rudy Salud and Lito Orillaza. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. The second PCCA 4-stag derby sizzles next Friday, while the Maliitan 2-Cock Fastest Kill Super Ulutan unfolds on Sept. 28. For inquiries, call 8431890, 8431746 or 8166750.

Cocker Lagon shows way

REIGNING Cocker of the Year and two-time Breeder of the Year Sonny Lagon ruled last Monday's second leg of the 5-stag derby circuit organized by the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines. The victory allowed Lagon to seize the overall lead in the circuit. Sharing championship honors with Lagon in the second leg were Pepito Ngo (Fatman), Ashley Arayata (Agilahas) and Tony Faustino (EDL Farm). Lagon's Blue Blade and Faustino's EDL Farm share the circuit lead with 7 points each. Rounding out the top 10 are Benjie Lim (Love U Papa) and Gerry Ramos (Kamandag) with 6.5 points each; Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan BPZ Complexor), Arayata (Agilahas), Pol Estrellado-Boy Royo (PEBR) with 6 pts each; Riyoichi Saito-Boy de Roca (Super Ninja BL), Pepito Ngo (Fatman sa Pasay Mar. 7, 9, 11), 5.5 pts each, and Blandy Tolentino (San Pablo Heat), 5 pts

TIGER Woods blasts out in the sixth hole during practice for the Ryder Cup. REUTERS

Ryder Cup: Big names mean little

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan—Don't look for Hal Sutton to repeat the classic introduction Ben Hogan gave during the flag-raising ceremony for the 1967 Ryder Cup.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Hogan said solemnly, "I present the American team—the 10 greatest golfers in the world."

For one thing, there are now 12 golfers per side. For another, it would be farfetched for a US captain of this generation to claim his team has a monopoly on the world's best players.

That said, the Americans find themselves in a familiar role. They are the clear favorites, with star power and major championships that can't be matched by the Europeans. The world rankings are more ammunition for those who expect Oakland Hills Country Club to be the scene of a red, white and blue celebration this weekend.

And this being the Ryder Cup, it doesn't mean a thing.

"Being underdogs doesn't mean we're going to lose," European star Sergio Garcia said. "Being underdogs means that on paper, they are better than us. You've just got to look at the world rankings. That definitely says something."

"We have come into the matches as underdogs most of the time," said Colin Montgomerie, who has never lost a singles match at the Ryder Cup. "I don't think this is any different." *AP*

De La Hoya wants belts of Hopkins

LAS VEGAS—Oscar De La Hoya stared straight ahead, eyes unwavering under his baseball cap. A few feet away, Bernard Hopkins was telling everyone who would listen what he'll do to the Golden Boy on Saturday night.

For once, De La Hoya didn't have much to say. When he finally did talk, the words came out with the same kind of intensity De La Hoya plans to bring into the ring against the undisputed middleweight champion.

"I'm not thinking of anything else because all I want is those belts," De La Hoya said. "Believe me when I tell you, those belts are mine."

To get the belts, De La Hoya will have to confound the oddsmakers and beat a champion who's not only bigger and stronger but also hasn't lost in 11 years.

Based on his recent performances against Shane Mosley and Felix Sturm, the 2-1 odds against him seem correct. But De La Hoya says he's never wanted a fight more, and those who doubt him don't understand the fire inside.

"This is the fight where I just suck it up and let everything loose," De La Hoya said. "This is for all the marbles. This is the fight that will define my career." *AP*

Paragua tastes first loss

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua's grandmaster bid got stalled in the eighth round Wednesday after he bowed to IM Roman Ovetchkin of Russia in the 2nd Alushta tournament in Crimea, Ukraine. It was the 20-year old Filipino's first loss since the eighth round of the 1st Alushta tournament where he earned his second GM result. Paragua dropped to solo fifth with 5.0 points and need to score six points in the last seven rounds to become a full-fledged GM. ***Marlon Bernardino***

Tribo faces Escaner tonight

PHILIPPINE superbantam boss Reynald Tribo (6-1, 4 KO's) of SGG Stable will defend his title for the first time when he faces veteran Alex Escaner (18-9-3, 8 KO's) of Marty Elorde Stable in a 12-round showdown tonight in San Juan, Manila. The fight will headline the "Ringside TV Boxing Goes to San Juan" fight card being put up by Elorde at the Plaza San Juan along Domingo Street. In the chief support, RP No. 6 bantam Elderd Romero of the Marty Elorde Stable tangles with Roberto Moreno in an explosive tenner. ***Salven L. Lagumbay***

Sports ed's aunt dies

MARY Gutierrez, aunt of Malaya sports editor Jimmy Cantor, died last Saturday due to asthma. She was 76. She is survived by her children Marino, Edith, Dominic and Juliet and grandchildren. Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave. and will be cremated later this week.

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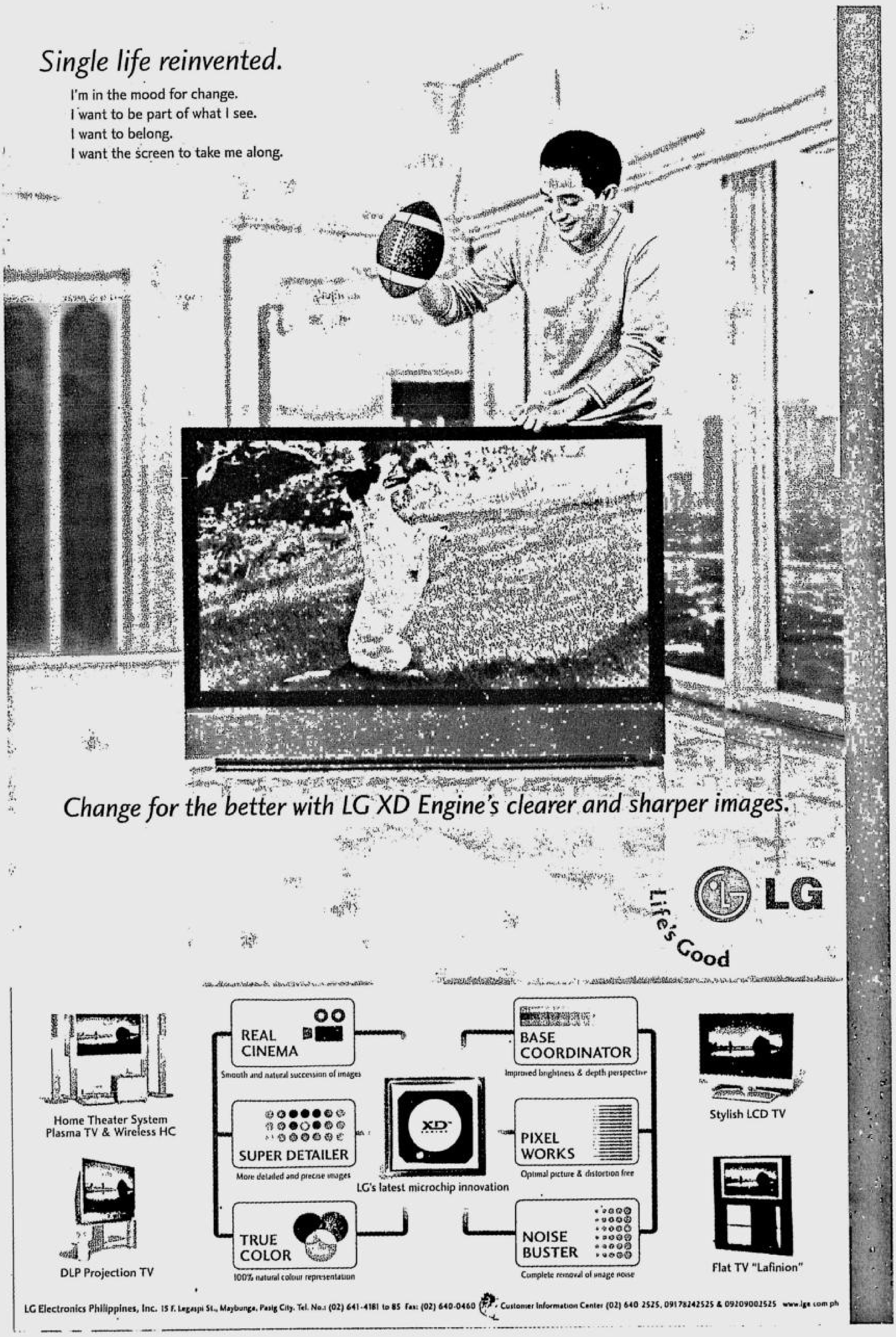

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Big field seen in Platinum Cup b'minton

AT LEAST 60 teams from Metro Manila's badminton courts are expected to slug it out for berths to the national finals in five elimination legs starting next month in the first National Inter-Club Platinum Cup, a tournament co-presented by INQUIRER BADMINTON MONTHLY and Globe Platinum.

The field in the event dubbed as Battle of the Courts will dispute area supremacy for five straight weekends in October. The eventual champions will earn tickets to the grand finals where a Bangkok holiday awaits members of the winning team.

As of yesterday, 45 courts have already confirmed participation ahead of the meeting of team captains and sponsors on Sept. 24 at the National Sports Grille in Makati.

More than P500,000 in prizes are at stake in the first-ever tournament for badminton courts also sponsored by Mizuno-Master Sports and Philippine Airlines, with Gerflor Taraflex sports flooring as the official mat.

For inquiries, call the INQUIRER BADMINTON office at 8978808 locals 259 or 261. Look for Ching dela Cruz.

Host venues are Intramuros Badminton Center for the West sector (Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon and Manila) on Oct. 2-3; the West Drive Badminton Center for the East sector (Pasig, Marikina, Rizal) on Oct. 9-10, the Olivarez College Sports Complex for the South sector (Muntinlupa, Alabang, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Taguig) on Oct. 16-17; The Zone and Yonex Badminton Center for Central (Makati, Mandaluyong and San Juan) on Oct. 23-24 and The Olympic Badminton Club for the North sector (Quezon City) on Oct. 30-31.

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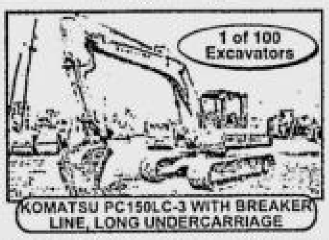
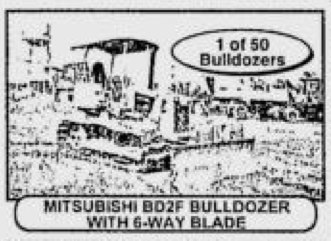
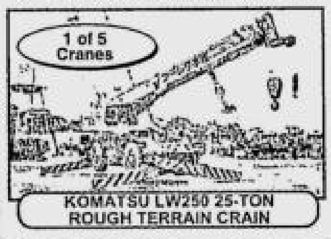


KOMATSU PC150LC-3 WITH BREAKER LINE, LONG UNDERCARRIAGE



MITSUBISHI BD2F BULLDOZER WITH 6-WAY BLADE



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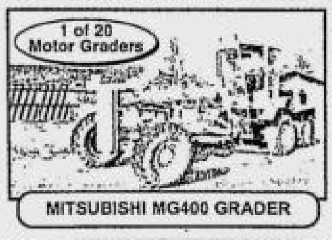
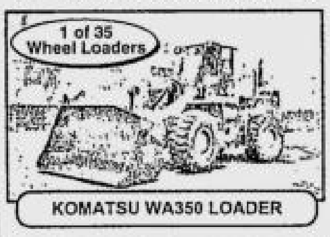


MITSUBISHI MG400 GRADER



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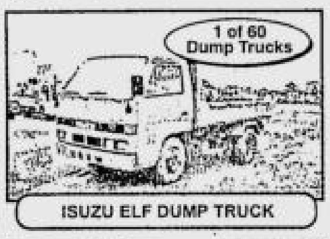

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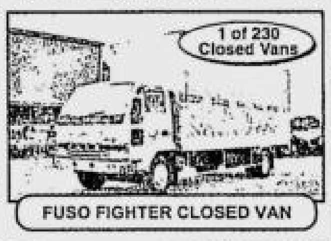

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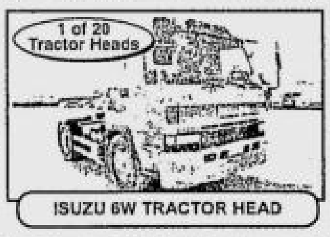
Wing Vans
ISUZU FORWARD FRR WING VAN



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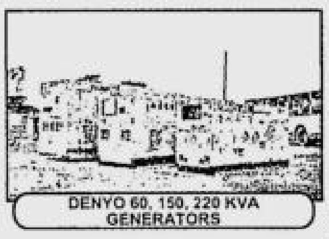
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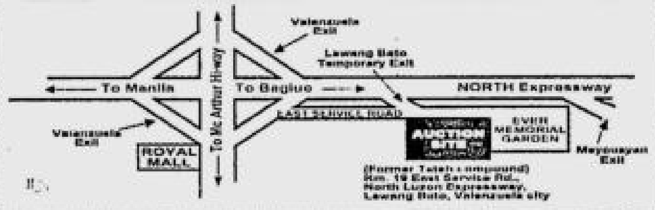

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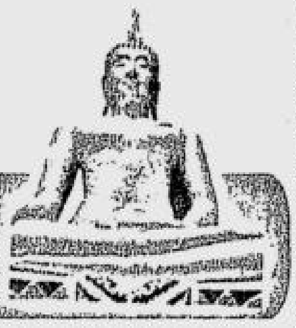

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Feathers N Wings
Intramuros Badminton Center
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EAST (Pasig, Marikina, Rizal)
October 9-10 West Drive Badminton Center

Badminton Buddies Centre
Badminton [illegible]
Feather Alley Badminton Center
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Old Market Badminton Center

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Shuttlers Best [illegible]
Smashers Badminton Center
Valle Verde Country Club
West Drive Badminton Center

SOUTH (Alabang, Muntinlupa, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Taguig)
October 16-17 Olivarez College Sports Complex

Alabang Country Club
Alabang [illegible] Club
[illegible] Courts
Camp Badminton FTI
[illegible] Badminton
[illegible] N Smash Badminton House

Powerzone Badminton
Olivarez College Sports Center
South Central Badminton Center
South Smash Badminton Center
Southbay Badminton
The Palms Country Club

* Roster of teams per area subject to change upon final confirmation of courts.

CENTRAL (Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan)
October 23 The Zone
October 24 Yonex Phils. Badminton Center

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Club Filipino
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Fit 2 Play
Manila Polo Club
Metro Badminton Courts
Pioneer Badminton Center

Power Smash
San Juan Badminton Center
Sheridan Badminton Center
Shuttle Zone
The Zone
Ultimate Impact
Yonex Phils. Badminton Center

NORTH (Quezon City)
October 30-31 Olympic Badminton Club

[illegible] Badminton Arcade
Battledore & Shuttlecock Badminton Hall
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Celebrity Sports Plaza
Don Antonio Sports Center
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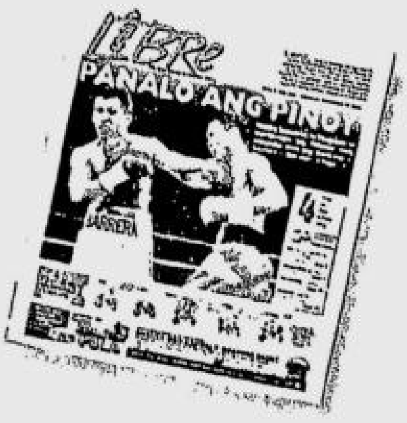

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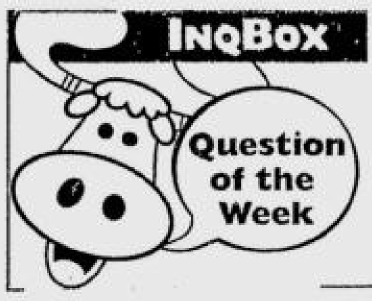

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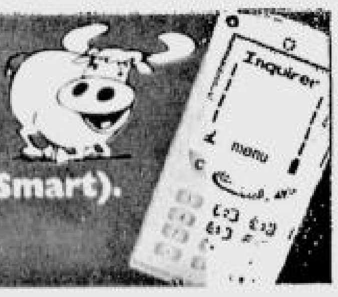

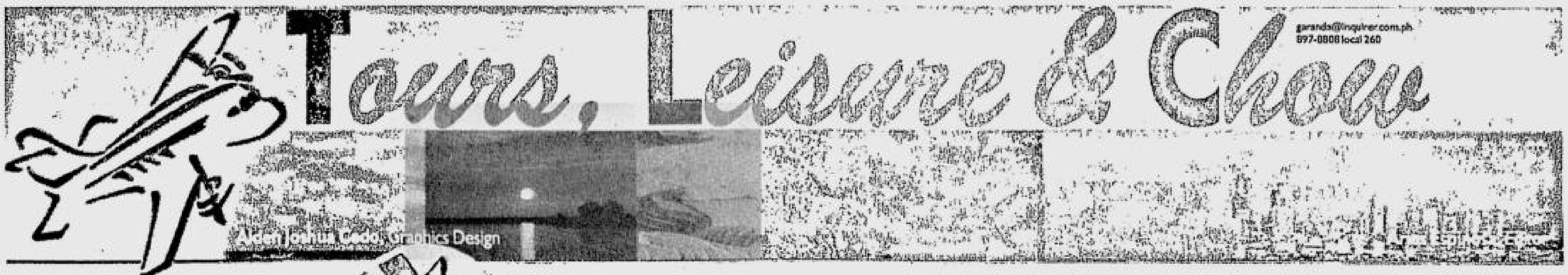
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Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
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728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
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Summer Place Hotel
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Tel. .(074) 446 0560, 446 5400-01
www SummerPlaceBaguio com

Lose weight, manage stress at Mandarin Oriental's yoga studio

WITH CLASSES conducted by Mandarin Oriental, Manila's resident Yoga instructor Prakash Singh Bisht, the highly popular Yoga for Weight-Loss program returns for more six-session courses at the hotel's Yoga Studio. Mandarin Oriental is the only hotel in the country to date that has built a yoga studio to complement its wellness facilities, and employs a full-time yoga instructor who hails from Rishikesh, considered the birthplace of Yoga.

The schedule for the weight-loss program is as follows: Sept. 20 to Oct. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; Oct. 4 to 16 and Oct. 18 to 30 - 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., and 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Course fee is P2,500 for six sessions.

Raja Yoga Meditation is another course offered, which will teach students how proper meditation and breathing can help reduce stress and manage anger.

The meditation courses are offered from Sept. 20 to Oct. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; Oct. 4 to 16, 8:15-9:15 a.m., and 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Course fee is P2,000 for six sessions.

Yoga for Back Pain, another course that is very much in-demand, returns on Oct. 18 to 30, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., and 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

For inquiries on the Yoga Studio's special courses and general yoga sessions, call 750-8888 extension 2105.

WATERFRONT DELIGHTS IN SEPTEMBER

Grand Cru— A delicious combination of chocolate mousse with a Japanese base mixed with grated coconut. Topped with sweet crème bruleè and exotic fruit compote, this is truly a sumptuous treat to enjoy at P900 net for the whole cake or P95 net per slice. Available from Sept. 1 to 30, in all restaurants and bars.

Spirited Ripple—Watch this cocktail make waves. A delightful blend of vodka, triple sec, brown sugar syrup, fresh watermelon juice, fresh mango juice and a drop of calamansi juice at P180 net per glass and P300 net per glass for Room Service. This is available from Sept. 1 to 30 in all restaurants and bars.

Alternative meeting venue in Puerto Princesa

ASTURIAS Hotel, preferred for its ideal location and convenient accessibility from Puerto Princesa Airport, creates the "Conference Package" to offer convention and meeting organizers the flexibility in holding company events away from the city. The hotel's Virginia Hall and function rooms can accommodate every client's needs and has become a popular venue for meetings and conventions in Puerto Princesa.

The "Conference Package" includes three days and two nights accommodation, roundtrip airport transfers, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, and buffet dinner throughout the duration of the conference. Package also includes a.m. and p.m. snacks and free flowing coffee and candies during the function and complimentary use of the Conference Room and meeting facilities. As an added privilege, participants are given complimentary usage of the swimming pool and Jacuzzi and free access to the hotel's Scenario Bar. For a minimum of 30 persons, this limited offer is priced at only P4,400 nett/ person (twin/triple sharing) and P3,900 nett/person (quadruple sharing) and is valid until Dec. 31.

For inquiries about the "Conference Package" of Asturias Hotel, call the Manila sales office at the 13th floor, 6780 Jaka Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City at 751-3615, fax 751-3616, visit www.asturiashotel.ph, or e-mail info@asturiashotel.ph.

> The 'Conference Package' includes three days and two nights accommodation, roundtrip airport transfers, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, and buffet dinner

The Bellevue Hotel donates to Ospital ng Muntinlupa

THE BELLEVUE Hotel recently donated vital medical equipment to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa as part of its efforts to help the community. Fulfilling its corporate social responsibility to the hilt, Alabang's first full-service business and leisure hotel undertakes various projects to support the local government's programs.

Proceeds from two of Bellevue's highly successful events—the 1st Annual Bellevue Cup and Filipino Art in Focus by Alabang's Finest—were used to purchase nebulizers, bassinets, ambubags and other valuable instruments to the hospital's Pediatric Ward.

The Bellevue's strong involvement in local government programs is not limited to charitable contributions. The hotel also opens its doors to special children in need of special education through a dedicated on-the-job training program. Last year, the Bellevue bagged the Healthy Hotel Award and passed the Philippine Health Promotion Program Standards because of its environment-friendly practices.

For inquiries, call 771-8181.

> The Bellevue's strong involvement in local government programs is not limited to charitable contributions

German Month at the New World Renaissance Hotel

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel, in coordination with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines' "German Month", will feature a special German a la carte menu at the hotel's Coffee Shop for the entire month of October. Savor palate-pleasing traditional choices that start with "Small Plates and Broths" (Appetizers and Soups) such as: Strammer Max (Toasted Rye Bread topped with Ham & Fried Egg), Linseneintopf (Lentil Soup with Smoked Bacon and Garden Vegetables), and Erbsensuppe (Pea Soup served with Toasted Sour Dough Bread and Cream). The German menu also includes hearty "Large Plates" (Entrees) namely: Grilled Nuremberg Sausages on Sauerkraut, Leberkaese (German Meat Loaf), Rheinischer Sauerbraten (Marinated Braised Beef Brisket with Dumplings and Apple Sauce), among others delicious choices. "Sweet Endings" perfectly cap the authentic German meal with Schwarzwaelder Kirschtorte (Black Forest Gateau), Quark-Steuselkuchen (Moist Steusel Cake) and Pflaumenkuchen (Plum Cake).

For more information and reservations, call 8116888.

Rio Bar Cafe's September promo

RIO Bar Café and Restaurant is coming up with delicious, tempting and exciting new treats this September:

Relax and spend your best hours with its Drink All You Can specials of San Miguel Draft Beer at only P300 nett. Promo is available from Mondays to Saturdays from 4 to 8 p.m. only

Come and try the mouth-watering Filipino Set Merienda Buffet, an all you can eat set *merienda* plus one round of iced tea for only P180 nett. This sweet sensation is available only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. only

For reservations and inquiries visit The Rio Bar Café and Restaurant, lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel, A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila. You can also call 523-1000 locals 314 and 365

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EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30

2 13 GOING ON 30 10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00
3 THE TERMINAL 11:00, 1.45, 4.30, 7:15, 10:00
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
5 FENG SHUI 10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 MINDHUNTERS 10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 GODSEND 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 ANACONDAS 12:40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00
9 THE NOTEBOOK 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 00
10 DODGEBALL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7.50, 10 00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2 MINDHUNTERS 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 13 GOING ON 30 1:30, 3.50, 6:10, 8.120, 10.00
4 ANACONDAS 10:40, 12.50, 3 00, 5:10, 7:20, 9.40
5 DODGEBALL 11:00, 1:05, 3:15, 5 25, 7.35, 9:45
6 FENG SHUI 10:10, 12.30, 2.50, 5.10, 7:30, 9:50
7 THE TERMINAL 10.45, 1.30, 4:15, 7:00, 9.45

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 MINDHUNTERS 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
2 DODGEBALL 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3 THE TERMINAL 10:45, 1:15, 3.45, 6.15, 9.00
4 ANACONDAS 10.05, 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9.00
5 THE NOTEBOOK 11:20, 1:40, 4 00, 6:20, 9.00
6 13 GOING ON 30 10:25, 12.50, 3.15, 5.40, 8.05, 10:30
7 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:20, 1:40, 4 00, 6:20, 8 40, 10:30
8 FENG SHUI 10:10, 12:40, 3 10, 5:40, 8.10, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
2 MINDHUNTERS
3 FENG SHUI
4 ANACONDAS
5 THE TERMINAL
6 13 GOING ON 30
7 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
8 DODGEBALL

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 DODGEBALL
4 ANACONDAS

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 FENG SHUI
5 ANACONDAS

CAINTA 240-4661
1 13 GOING ON 30
2 FENG SHUI
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 ANACONDAS

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 ANACONDAS
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
5 DODGEBALL

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 FENG SHUI
4 TAG-INIT
5 DODGEBALL

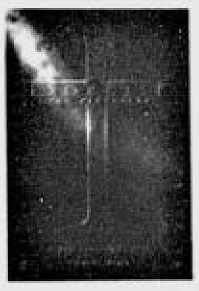
ANGELES "NOW OPEN"
1 TROY
2 THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
3 MANO PO 2
4 FILIPINAS

STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 GODSEND
2 JANDARA
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
5 ANACONDAS
6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING

IMUS' 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 ANACONDAS
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 THE TERMINAL
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5 FENG SHUI
6 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 ANACONDAS
2 FENG SHUI
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THE MISSING

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ANACONDAS
2 HAMOG
3 GODSEND
4 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 FENG SHUI
6 CONNIE AND CARLA



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ATC Alabang Town Center
1 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 FENG SHUI
4 MINDHUNTERS
5 THE TERMINAL

G1 Glorietta 1
1 13 GOING ON 30
2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
3 THE TERMINAL
4 FENG SHUI

G4 Glorietta 4
1 13 GOING ON 30
2 MINDHUNTERS
3 GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST 10 55, 1 20, 3 45, 6 10, 8 35, 11 00
4 DODGEBALL
5 THE TERMINAL
6 FENG SHUI
7 THE NOTEBOOK

GB1 Greenbelt 1
1 13 GOING ON 30 3 00, 5 15, 7 30, 9 45
2 FENG SHUI 12:20, 2 40, 5 00, 7 20, 9 40

GB3 Greenbelt 3
1 GUARANTEED SEATS THE TERMINAL 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30
2 GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2 20, 4 45, 7 10, 9 35, 12 00
3 GUARANTEED SEATS FENG SHUI 1 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30
4 GUARANTEED SEATS THE NOTEBOOK 3 00, 5 45, 8 30, 11 15
5 GUARANTEED SEATS 13 GOING ON 30 2 20, 4 35, 6 50, 9 05, 11 20

ACC Ayala Center Cebu
1 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2 THE TERMINAL
3 FENG SHUI
4 SPARTAN
5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

At the Activity Center

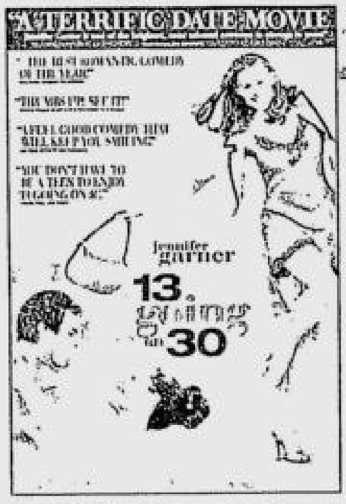
GLORIETTA: BPI APPLIANCE MADNESS September 9 to 26, 2004
ALABANG TOWN CENTER: LAGUNA EXPO September 13 to 17, 2004
AYALA CENTER CEBU: RUIZ DERMA FASHION SHOW September 17, 3:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2: GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring ACOUSTIC ANTHOLOGY September 17, 7 00 to 10 00pm
GREENBELT 3: NEO CORPO ART EXHIBIT Sept. 16-30 (Greenbelt 3 Lobby)

Onstage: REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12, 2004

EXPO: TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE! For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84



FREE
Glitter Tattoo and Bead Shop at the Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center Cinema lobby from 1:00 - 4:00 PM on September 18 & 19

Just present your 13 Going On 30 movie ticket or a P200 new load / re-load Timezone Powercard at the Family Day booth.

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Corte De Las Palmas
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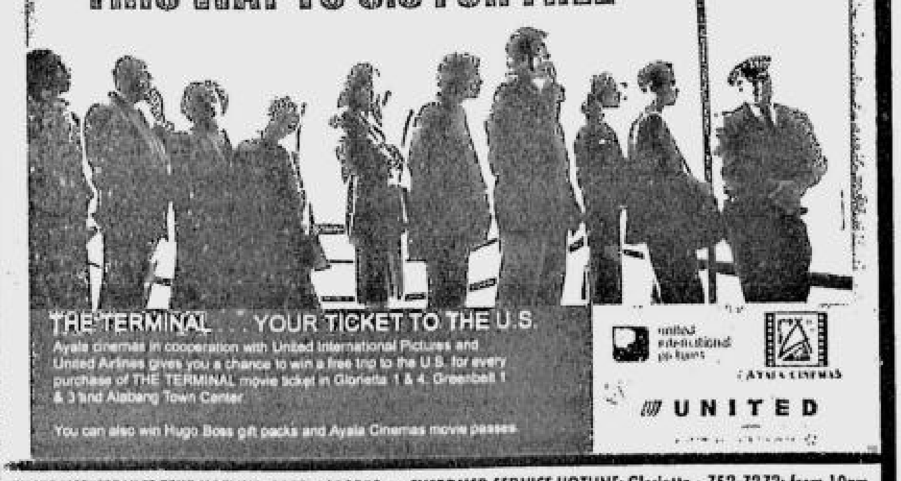
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UNITED

THE TERMINAL ... YOUR TICKET TO THE U.S.
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AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU Love'Mall!

Auditions set for new. . .

From page A32

ment of Acceptable.

Excerpts of its evaluation:

"As usual, a **Tom Hanks** film offers the viewer unadulterated pleasure. Hanks delights as he fumbles his way into the English language and improvises in order to survive. Also perfect is **Stanley Tucci as** the beleaguered immigration bureaucrat unwittingly challenged by the honest simplicity of Hank's immigrant character.

"Steven Spielberg's touch is evident in this gentle comedy where everything seems true and real. The audience laughs a lot, but it is laughter that is sympathetic.

"The film mirrors the uncertainties of life in this age of political instability. What is heartwarming is that the immigrant is able to rise above his difficulties. The film is a tribute to the human spirit and its ability to transcend unforeseen crises.

'Zoids'

SEPT. 17 at 7:30 p.m., "Zoids: Fuzors (Toonami): Years after the New Century, the Zoids have taken their battles to the coliseum, and a new type of Zoid emerges—the Fuzor.

In today's episode, RD is determined to combine Liger Zero and Fire Phoenix, but after several attempts, he is no closer to bringing the two Zoids to fusion. When a battle ensues with Blake, who has a fused Zoid and can easily take on most opponents, will RD finally get his Zoids to fuse and create a super Zoid?

Rico J and Ethel · **RICO J. Puno** stars in "Macho Guapito, Matamis na Bao, Atbp." on Oct. 13 at Metro Concert Bar on West Avenue in Quezon City. Sharing the spotlight with him is sexy singer-comedienne **Ethel Booba**, who might be called Rico J's female counterpart. Other guests are **O.J. Mariano** and the Montserrat Male Choir. Call 374-7505.

'Tad Jock'...

From page A31

Wazzup" is celebrating the start of its third season with an hour-long celebration and party.

This special episode will be aired live from Expo Exchange in Greenbelt 1 in Makati City.

You can make your voice heard in this search by texting WAZZUP <space> VOTE <space> Name of Questionable and sending your vote to 2366.

ROBBY David

JAYA

ELIZABETH Ramsey

'Best of Both' at Museum

THE MUCH-AWAITED concert of mother and daughter Elizabeth Ramsey and Jaya, billed as "Best of Both," happens at the Music Museum tonight and tomorrow night.

It will mark the very first time the two women will be performing together in a full-length concert.

"We have waited so long for something like this to happen," said Jaya.

Elizabeth will be doing those Caribbean and rock and roll medleys that she has been famous for. And she will certainly make the crowd roll on the aisles with her humor.

Jaya will be singing some new numbers as well as her own hits such as "Dahil Tanging Ikaw," "Wala na Bang Pag-ibig," "Laging Naron Ka," "Dahil ba sa Kanya," among many others.

Gerard Salonga is the show's musical director. Stage direction is by Al Quinn.

The show's official radio stations are Joey 92.3 and Crossover 105.1.

For ticket inquiries, call Artist House at 817-4660, 815-1953; Artistation Inc. at 884-2183, 884-2220; or Music Museum at 721-0635, or 721-6726.

JC Cuadrado

'Tad Jock' search ends tonight

THE MOMENT of truth has arrived for talented newcomers JC Cuadrado, Robby David and KC Reyes.

All three are competing to become Studio 23's wackiest news reporter in "Wazzup Wazzup's" Tad Jock Questionables search, which ends at 7 p.m. Also tonight, "Wazzup

'TAD JOCK'/ A30

KC Reyes

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1 13 GOING ON 30
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:10
PG-13

2 THE EXORCIST
11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20
R-13

3 THE TERMINAL
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:20
GP

4 FENG SHUI
10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:20
PG-13

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PG13

CINEMA 2 EXORCIST
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R13

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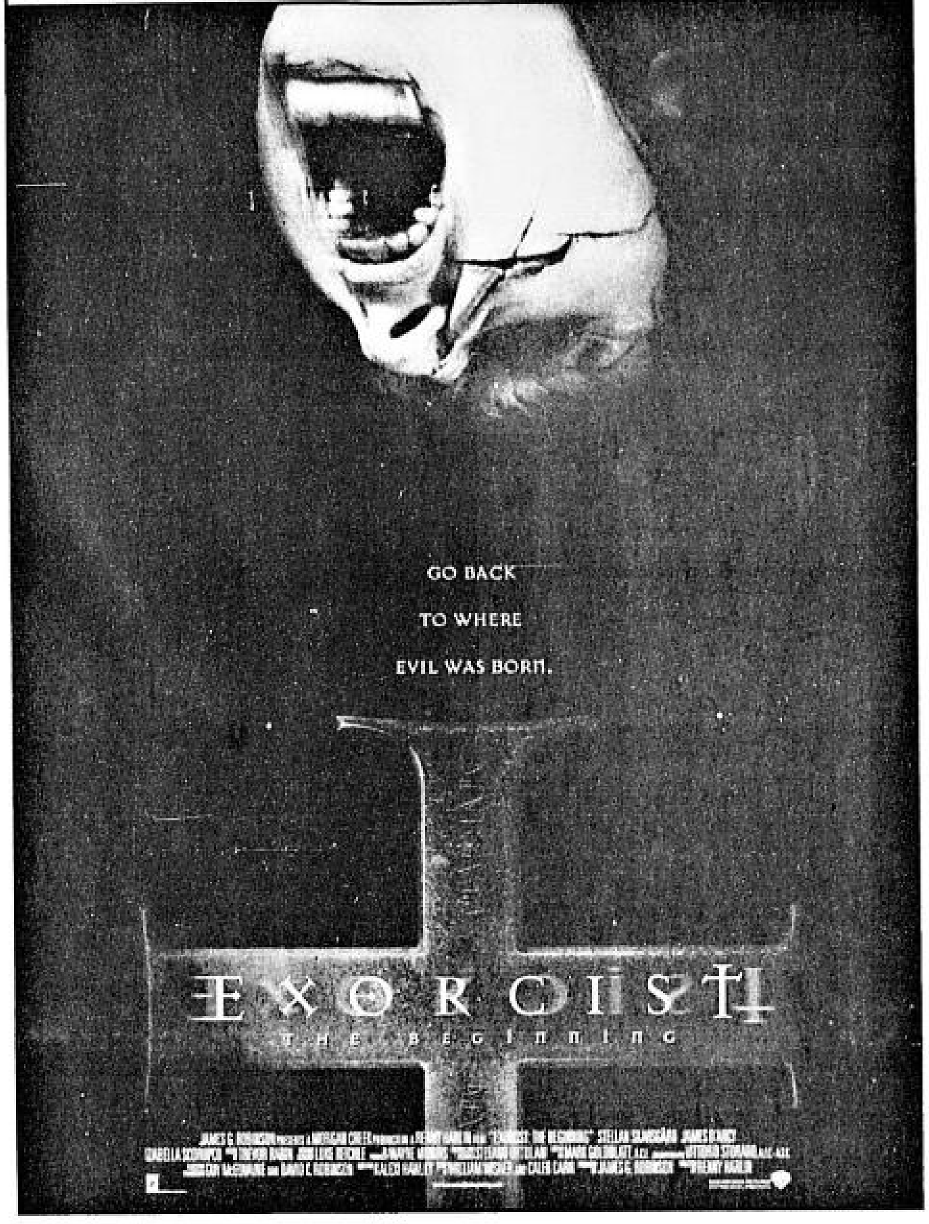
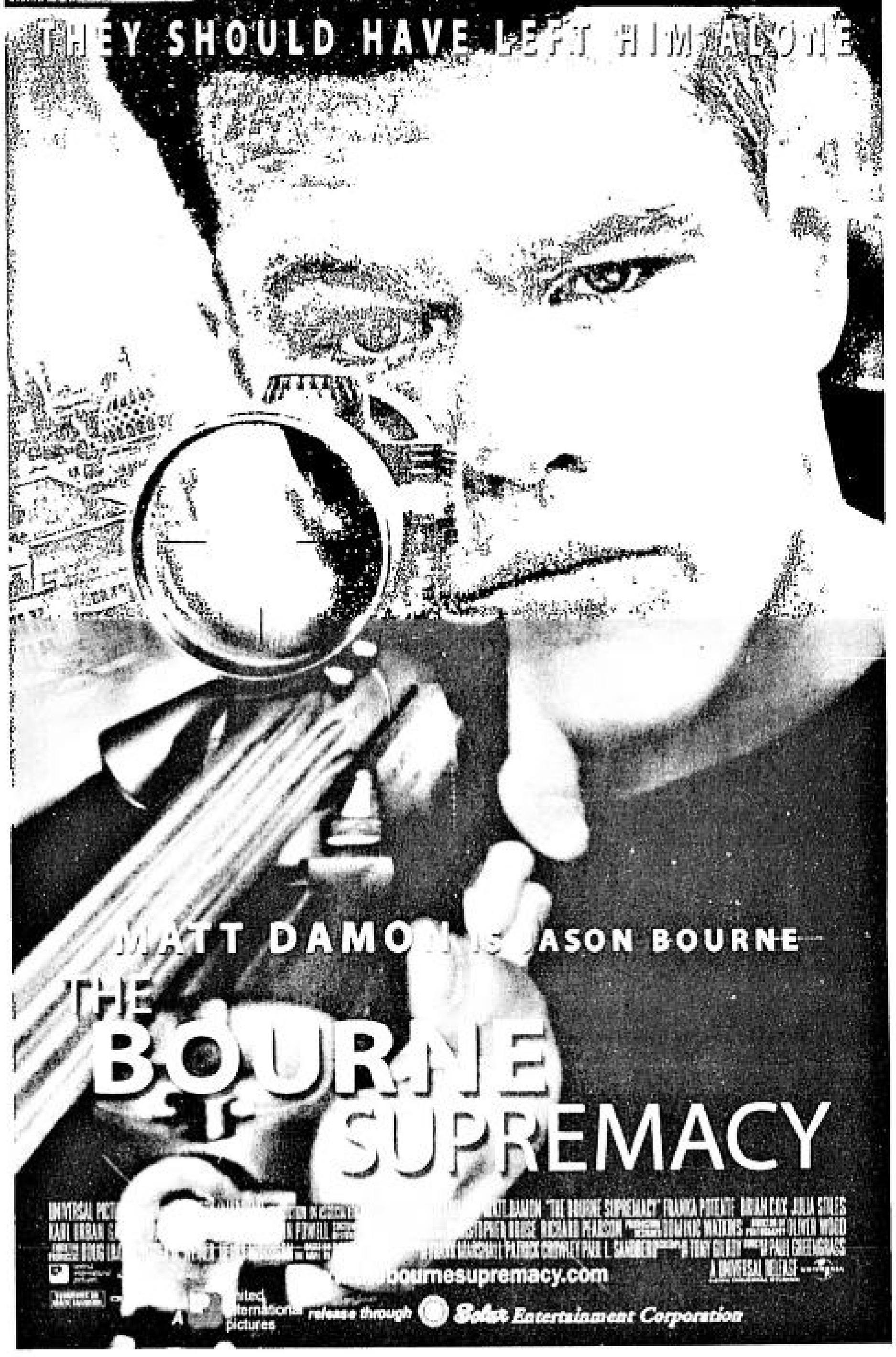


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
OPENS SEPT. 22



THEY SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE
MATT DAMON IS JASON BOURNE
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OPENS SEPTEMBER 22
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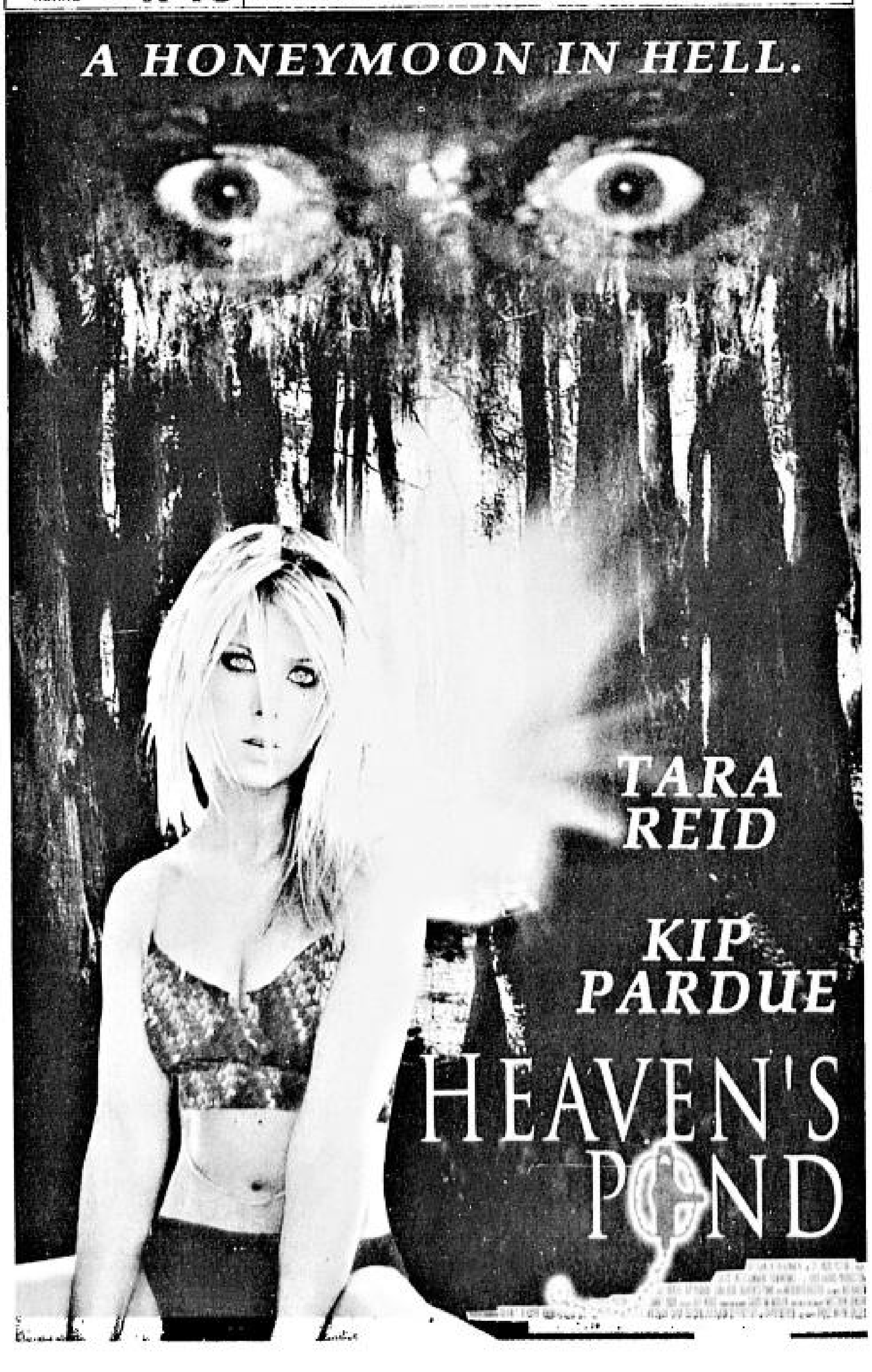

OPENS SEPTEMBER 22
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Auditions set for new musical on Blessed Virgin of Caysasay

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AUDITIONS for singers, actors and dancers will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. this Sunday, Sept. 15, at the Dream Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for a new musical on the miraculous Blessed Virgin of Caysasay, which will be presented from Dec. 7 to 10 at the CCP's Little Theater.

The musical is being presented by the CCP and the Taal CHAQM Foundation, the Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation and the Taal Heritage Foundation. The project is being spearheaded by acclaimed sculptor and Marian devotee **Ramon Orlina.**

Some stars have been cast in the show, but a wide range of roles, both major and minor, is open to auditions, so talents of all ages are welcome. In particular, the production is looking for child singer-actors from 6 to 10 years old to play some important roles in the musical.

The production honors the Virgin of Caysasay, the pride of Taal, Batangas, whose shrine has drawn many devotees and supplicants through four centuries, up to this day.

The musical seeks to popularize the story of the Virgin whose beneficent love and succor has helped so many people, and has meant so much particularly to those living in Taal and its environs.

In particular, the production seeks to make its story come alive for young viewers, hence the number of youthful characters in the show. For details, call **Andy Bais** at 780-9210 or 0919-2065424.

'The Terminal'

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Cinema (Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation) has given **Steven Spielberg's** film, "The Terminal," a technical assessment of Above-average, and an ethical assess-

AUDITIONS/ A30

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 Dolby FENG SHUI 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
4 SDDS EXORCIST 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5 dts ANACONDAS 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
6 Dolby THE TERMINAL 12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm
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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIKTIMA / NAIIBANG HAYOP
CORONET B	A MAN APART
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GODSEND
CINEMA-6	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-7	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-8	NENA INOSENTE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-12	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-14	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	MINDHUNTERS R13 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	TERMINAL GP 12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30

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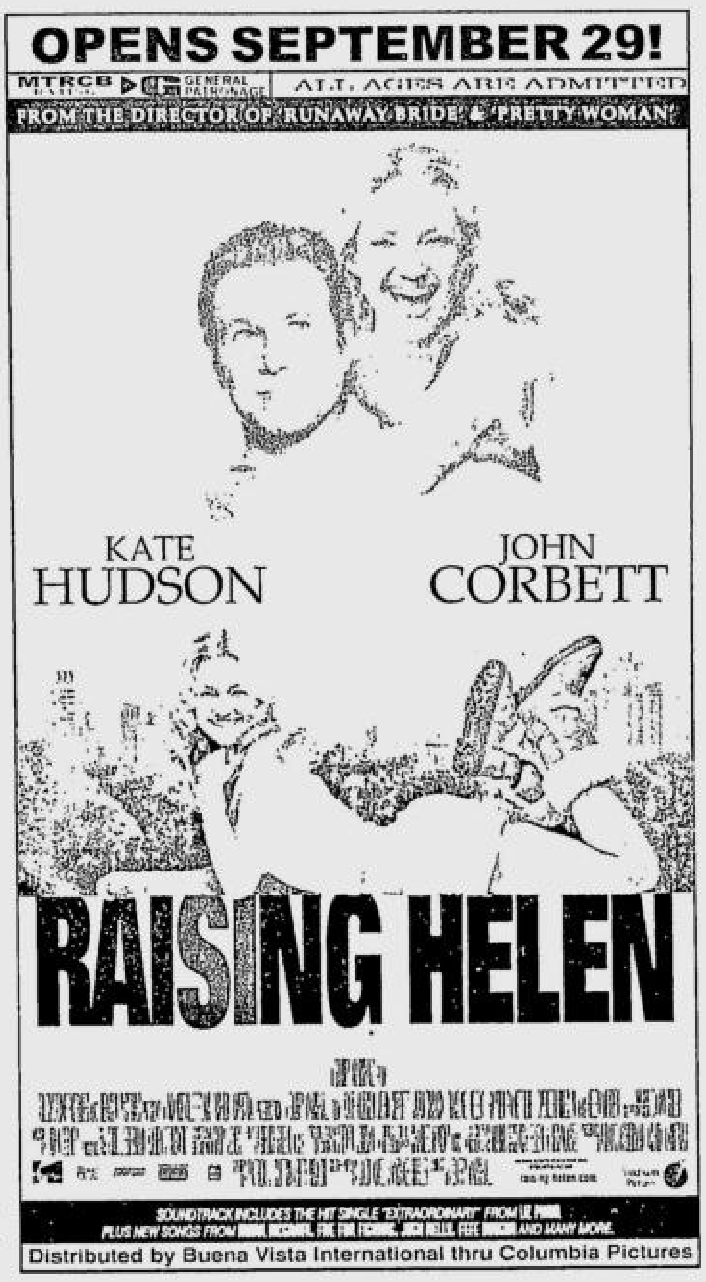
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Milla Jovovich in RESIDENT EVIL 2

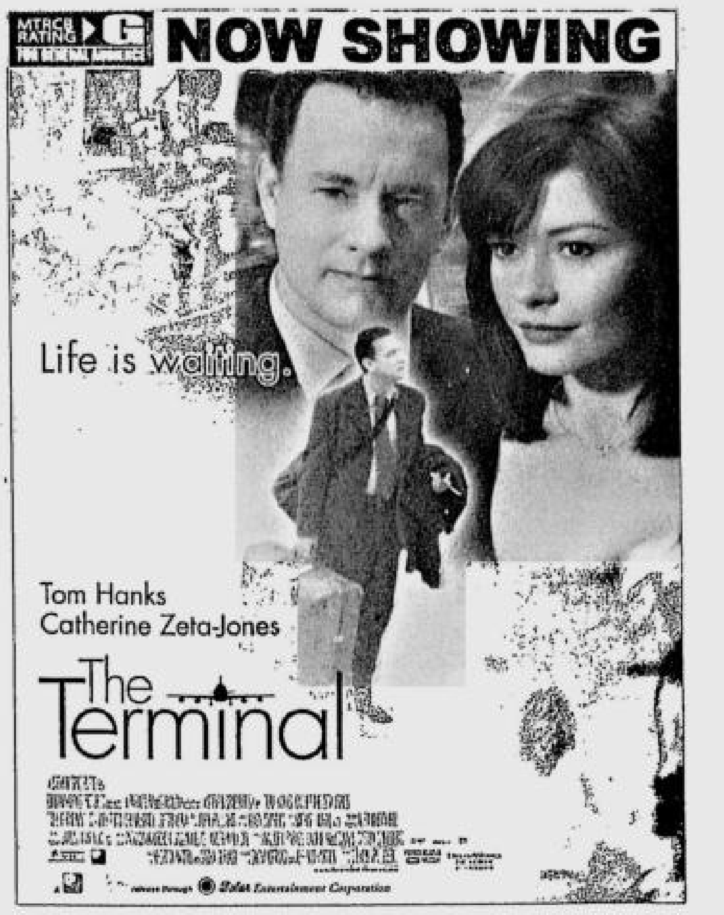
RESIDENT EVIL #1 in the US BOXOFFICE

THIS WEEKEND Moviegoers stalked the multiplexes powering the special effects driven action **RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse** to the number one spot at the North American box office during an otherwise sluggish post Labor Day frame. The hostage taking action thriller *Cellular* bowed in second place while most holdovers saw heavy declines coming off of the holiday session. With students going back to class and a new football season commencing, ticket sales for the top ten films failed to break the $60M mark for the second consecutive weekend.

Released by *Columbia Pictures' Screen Gems* division, **RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse** took advantage of the lethargic marketplace and generated a strong $25M opening weekend, according to final studio figures, improving upon the $17 M bow of the first Resident Evil from March 2002. Playing much wider this time, the sequel averaged a strong $7,015 from 3,284 theaters which nearly cloned the $7,004 opening average of its predecessor from 2,528 locations. **RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse**, which finds *Milla Jovovich* as a human heroine who battles infected zombies, was the fifth top spot debut of the year for market share leader Sony and was the tenth sequel to open at number one in 2004. The actioner appealed mostly to young men and women and it should outgun the $39.5M gross of the first Resident Evil keeping the franchise alive and ready for Part 3.

While Jovovich was out saving humanity from evil, *Kim Basinger* played a damsel in distress in the *New Line* kidnapping thriller *Cellular* which opened in second place with $12.1M. Playing in 2,749 theaters, the PG-13 film averaged a decent $3,974 per location.

ADVT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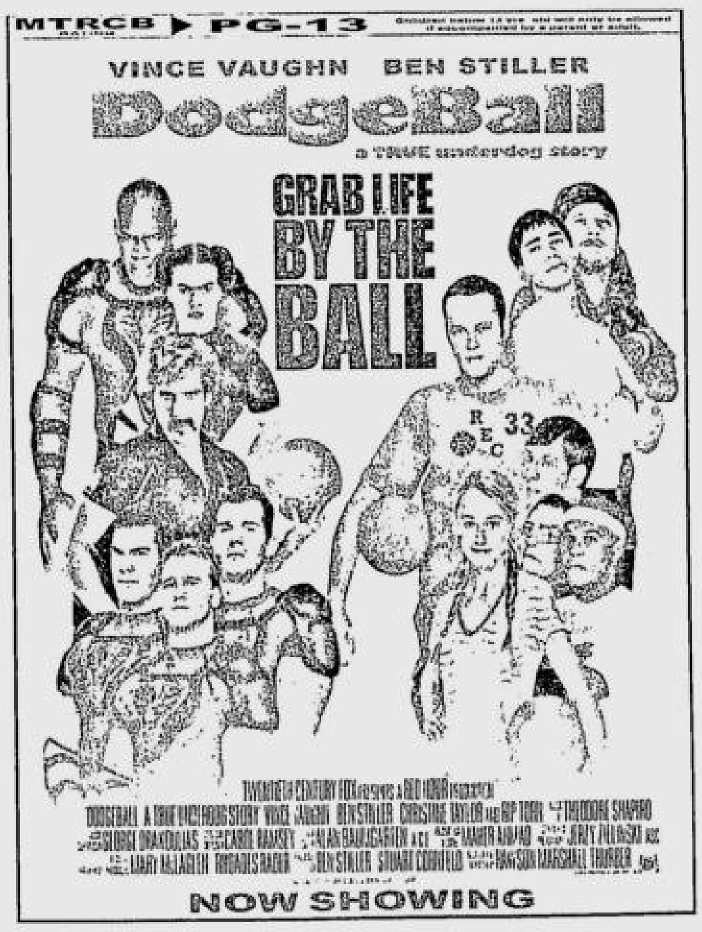
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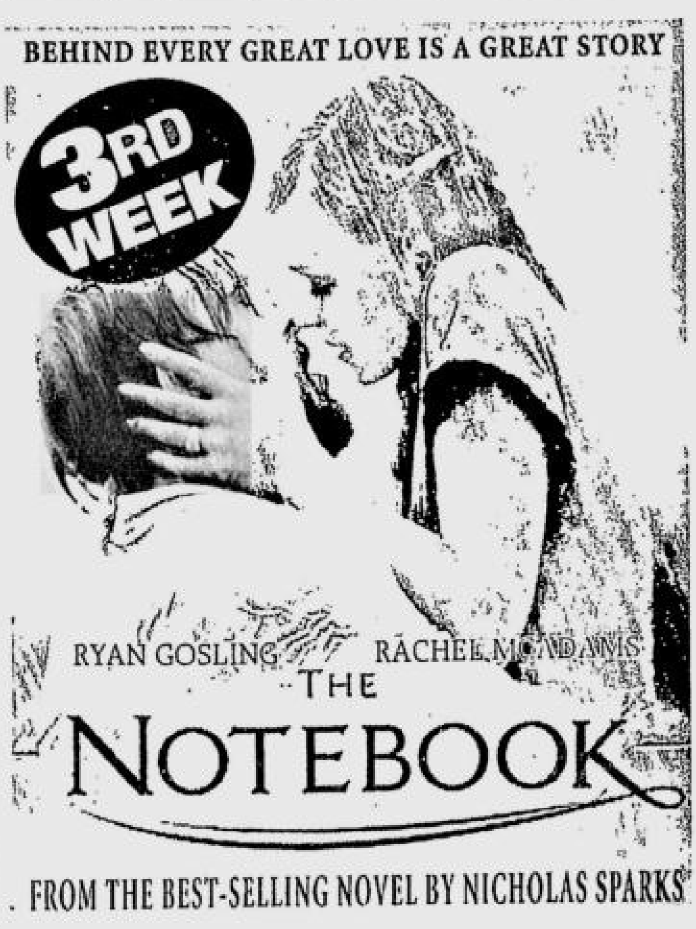
BEHIND EVERY GREAT LOVE IS A GREAT STORY
3RD WEEK
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THE NOTEBOOK
FROM THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

Gabriela supports Decena, Dungca vs Salvador

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I HAVE all the documents," says Decena. JIMMY DY

BUSINESSWOMAN Cristina Decena has solicited the support of the militant women's group Gabriela in the cases she and former actress Vivialyn Dungca filed against their common former lover, actor Phillip Salvador.

Decena said representatives of Gabriela would be present when she files another estafa case against Phillip and his brother Ramon Salvador at the Las Piñas prosecutors' office today.

Gabriela secretary general Emmi de Jesus confirmed to INQUIRER Entertainment last Wednesday that Decena did solicit the "moral support" of Gabriela.

De Jesus said Gabriela is supporting Decena and Dungca because both women are "experiencing emotional agony."

Gabriela's De Jesus said the group would make its "physical presence" felt when Decena files the new estafa case today.

But De Jesus said the group is still studying the two women's cases and would release an official statement soon.

Earlier this year, Decena filed an estafa case against Salvador with the Department of Justice. She wanted her former lover to pay back the P15 million she said she lent him.

More estafa cases

Last July, she filed 10 more counts of estafa against the actor and his brother Ramon in connection with 10 jeepneys she had bought in December 2001.

On July 5, Dungca filed a case seeking child support for Denise Ysabel, 11, her daughter with Salvador, at the Angeles City regional trial court.

Decena claims to have documents that would prove that the Salvador brothers "deceived" her when she helped them put up a freight and remittance business in Hong Kong more than two years ago.

Decena said that in 2001, she agreed to join Salvador in attending a seminar on money remittance at Western Union in preparation for the business. Decena, Salvador and Decena's ex-husband Danny also went to Hong Kong, Bangkok and Palau in Guam to consult friends who were involved in the same business.

"During our trip to Hong Kong, I found out that remitting money is a lucrative business there," said Decena. "Phillip took us to some of the Filipino communities there. The people liked him very much. He told them that he was there to start a business which he hoped they would support."

Building a future

On Dec. 27, 2001, the Phillip Salvador Freight and Remittance International Limited was formally registered with Decena and Ramon as shareholders/directors. The company's business address was 1/F, 44 Hankow Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

"That's why I could not believe it when I heard them say the business had never become operational since there never was an office to begin with," Decena told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "I have all the documents with me.

"(Phillip) deceived me because he made me believe that this kind of business would help us build a future together," she added. "I did my part—opened this business, made arrangements for office space and gave money for the down payment. But he failed to do his part."

Decena said she gave Salvador P5 million so he could "operate the business." But while she was waiting in Manila for messages from him, Decena said Salvador was frequenting casinos and horse races in Macau.

"He gambled with my money," Decena said. "It's actually fortunate that this business did not continue, otherwise I would have lost a lot more money."

'Totally unfair'

Decena said her Chinese businessman friend, Charlie Chau, helped them during the processing of their business papers. "He owns the office space in Kowloon that was supposed to be our office," Decena explained. "It was also through him that I found out our business is not closed but only inactive. I need to pay government taxes to close it."

She said she flew to Hong Kong two weeks ago and learned that failure to comply with HK government rules could mean she and Ramon would be barred from Hong Kong.

"At first I thought it was Phillip who would be black-listed because the business is under his name," she said, "but my lawyers told me that as directors, Ramon and I would be held responsible."

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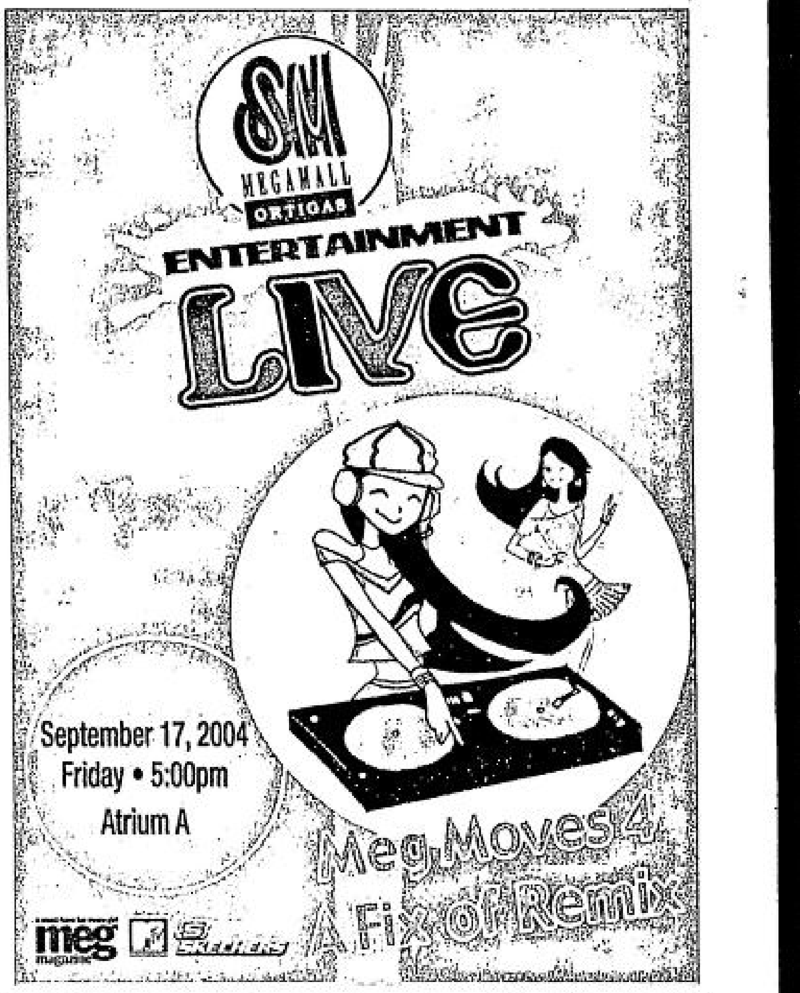

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For Mark Joseph, his past…

From page A36

other people to me. Now, I take patients by appointment only."

Joseph has decided to concentrate on sales. The former actor now sells medical equipment, rice, corporate giveaways and "anything and everything."

"I like being in sales," he says. "Money comes fast in sales, unlike in the movies where there is a waiting spell before your next project. It is not difficult to sell and make money, unlike in the movies where you could lose everything."

Turning "corporate," Joseph shaved his beard which, during his movie phase, was his trade mark. "People would not take me seriously if I still had a beard," he says. "Some were even scared to deal with me. I just kept a moustache."

'Idol'

He also joined a Rotary Club in Quezon City, perhaps to reaffirm his new persona as a responsible citizen.

"I have been a Rotarian for only a year and a half," he says. "I joined because I wanted to serve the community. This is what Rotary is all about."

But his past as a bold actor continues to haunt Joseph.

"When I meet people and they find out that I was Mark Joseph, they are amazed. There are people who tell me I'm their idol, that they've seen my various action films. But there are also people who talk in whispers behind my back. Mainly, they describe me as the bold actor. It's a reputation that's hard to live down. There is still a tinge of malice to the tag. But once they get to know me, they see a different person."

He claims he has never been ashamed of his past even if he's not exactly proud of it. "I don't hide it," he says. "I just don't want to hype it."

Civic duty

He still has other dreams. "I was toying with the possibility of entering politics," he admits. "But the time is not yet ripe. I am now concentrating on being a supporter of politicians who I know will do the country good."

During the last elections, Joseph campaigned for actor Bong Revilla and Mar Roxas, who both won as senators.

"They have a vision for the country," he says. "I believe in what they want to do for us, so I even went to Cebu to campaign actively for them."

As part of his civic duty, Joseph has also searched for products that would help uplift the lives of the rural farmers.

"I have made connections with a supplier of a brand of fertilizer from Russia, which could be sold to farmers at cheap prices," says Joseph. "I thought of this because agriculture is part of President Arroyo's program."

Show business, however, still rears its head in Joseph's life. In 2001, he made a movie which starred new screen stud Allen Dizon. As usual, Joseph cannot recall its title.

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12	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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1
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10:30 FS/11:00 MF/
1:10/3:20/5:30/
7:40/9:20 LFS/
9:50 LMF/11:30 END

2
EXORCIST:
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Winston in Concert goes to Naga

WINSTON in Concert's "Amplified National Tour" presents First Circle band at Roberto's at Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City, today.

The live concert coincides with Naga's historic Peñafrancia Festival. The popular fiesta, which attracts pilgrims from all over the country and honors Our Lady of Peñafrancia, is celebrated every third Saturday of September in Naga City.

After a novena in honor of the Virgin of Peñafrancia at the Naga Cathedral, the holy image, following the Naga river route, is returned to her shrine in a chapel at Nueva Caceres.

From tonight to early Saturday morning, First Circle will entertain pilgrims at Roberto's at Villa Caceres Hotel.

The biggest Winston in Concert to date, "Maximum Jive," will be presented Sept. 24, at SM Megastrip, featuring Freestyle, Prime Council and Toy Symphony, and sponsored by Lone Star Light and Jam 88.3.

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1 13 GOING ON 30
FS : 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM
LMF: 9:10PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG-13)

2 FENG SHUI
FS : 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM
LMF: 10:00PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG-13)

3 THE TERMINAL
FS : 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM
LMF: 10:00 PM
MTRCB Rating : (GP)

4 EXORCIST : The Beginning
FS : 12:30PM, 2:50PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM
LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : (R-13)

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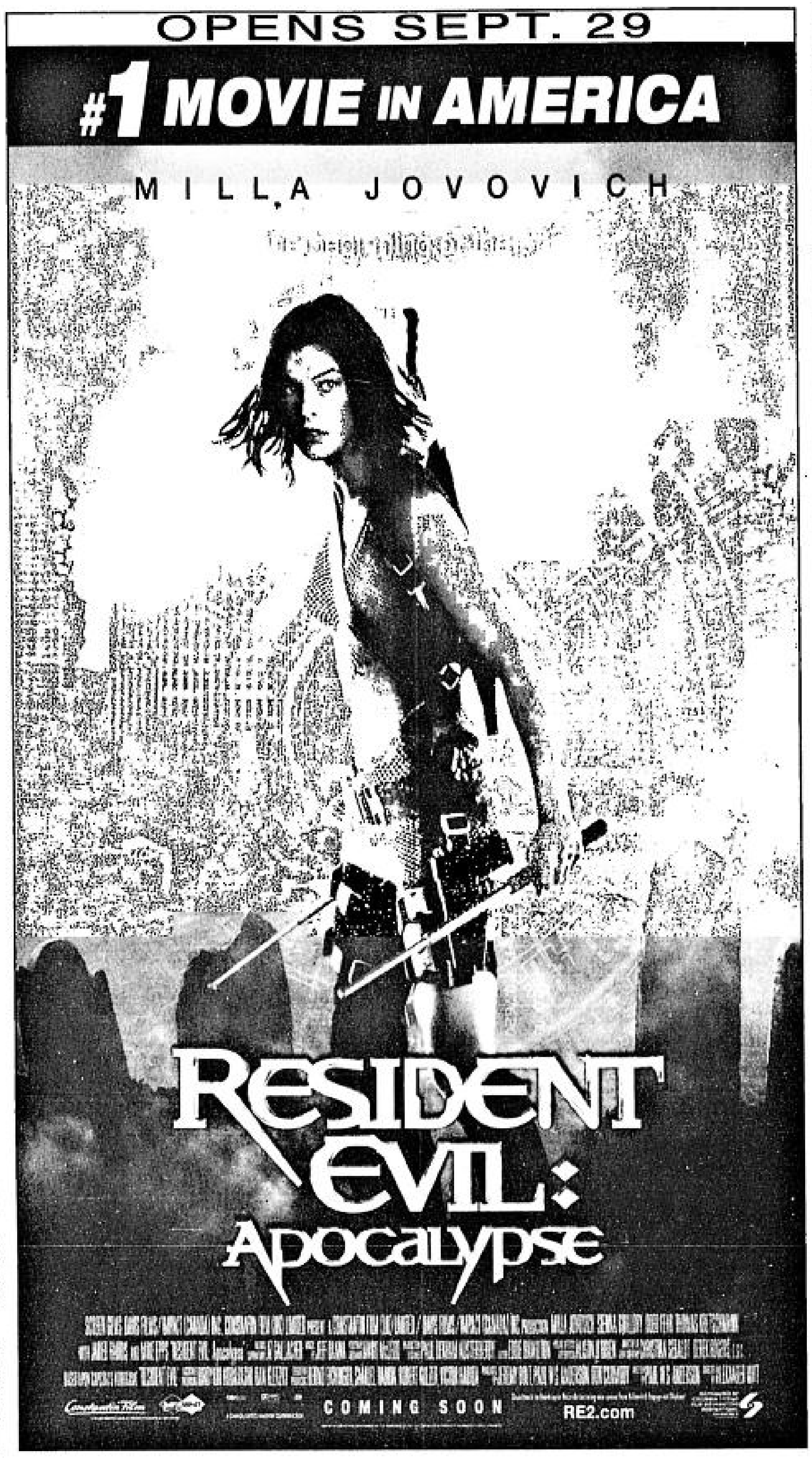

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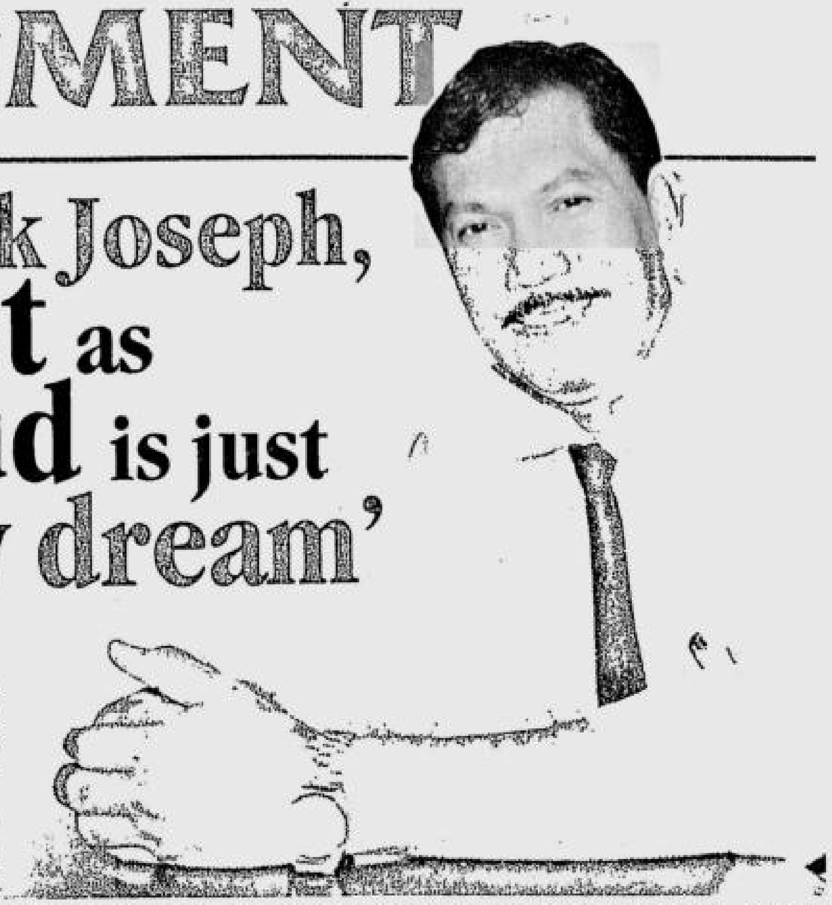
For Mark Joseph, his past as a stud is just 'a hazy dream'

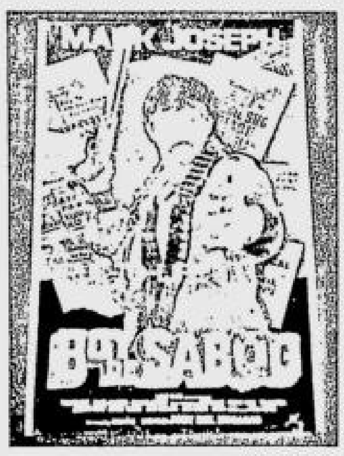
By Nini Valera


NEW LIFE. Ricardo Sarzuello is now a chiropractor, a sales man and a Rotarian. RAFFY LERMA

THE ACTOR who shot to fame in the '80s for baring his body in sub-culture sex movies now makes a living "fixing" other people's bodies.

"I am now a practicing chiropractor," says Ricardo Sarzuello, who was known in the movies as "pene king" Mark Joseph, pene being short for penetration in the sexual act.

"I studied in the US at the University of the Art of Healing in California," Sarzuello relates. "I started the course in 1992. It was a two-year course, and I had two years of practicum also in the US. I knew the movies would not last."


YESTERDAY

ROGER CARPIO

Before he became pene king, Mark Joseph was a bit player and was introduced in Bukang Liwayway Productions' "Tolonges." He also appeared in bit roles in "Get My Son, Dead or Alive," which starred Rudy Fernandez, and "Kung Tawagin Siya'y Bathala," with Dante Varona in the lead role.

After languishing on the sidelines, he accepted an offer to appear in a bold movie.

"I used that as a stepping stone," he admits. "I did bold roles because I wanted to make a name for myself."

Joseph's reign as the ultimate stud in sex movies, where he supposedly made love for real with his leading ladies, lasted for four years, which defined the prurient period in Philippine cinema. His first sex film was "Babasagin," directed by Armando de Guzman Jr.

"Sorry, I don't remember anymore the name of the leading lady," he says.

He played the title role in his third movie, "Bohemyo," directed by Jose "Kaka" Balagtas and starring a bevy of women: Vida Verde, Olga Miranda, Katrina Abad and Stella Strada.

Joseph went on to appear in countless sexy movies, but his recollection of these is also blurred.

"It was like a hazy dream," he explains. "I don't even remember now the titles of most of my movies."

Achievements

Asked if he was actually "doing it" in movies, he responds with wry statements: "Let their imagination run wild," "It was an art film," or "We wanted to make a good movie."

He had done, in fact, a few good movies, even if he wants to forget that he made them. He singles out as major achievements director Elwood Perez's "Silip," produced by Solar Films, where he had scenes of frontal nudity, and the late Tata Esteban's "Hubo," from FLT Films. In both movies, Joseph starred opposite Ma. Isabel Lopez.

"If I remember right, 'Silip' even competed at the Cannes Film Festival," says Joseph.

Both movies had been mainstream productions, as was Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Tagos ng Dugo," where Joseph played one of the rapists of Vilma Santos' serial killer.

Throughout his reign as pene king, a tag coined by the late entertainment writer and publicist Oskee Salazar, Joseph kept his private life away from the public. He was already married then, and already had children—all girls—who are now all grown up. Joseph refuses to reveal the identities of his children and his wife.

While enjoying his popularity as a bold actor, Joseph still did not gain the respectability that he wanted. A semblance of respectability finally came when he shifted from bold movies to action films.

"*Kuya* Ronnie (Fernando Poe Jr.) told me to stop making bold movies," relates Joseph. "He said I was also fit to do action movies. So he recommended me to a producer, and I made 'Boy de Sabog,' directed by Joey del Rosario."

Disheartened

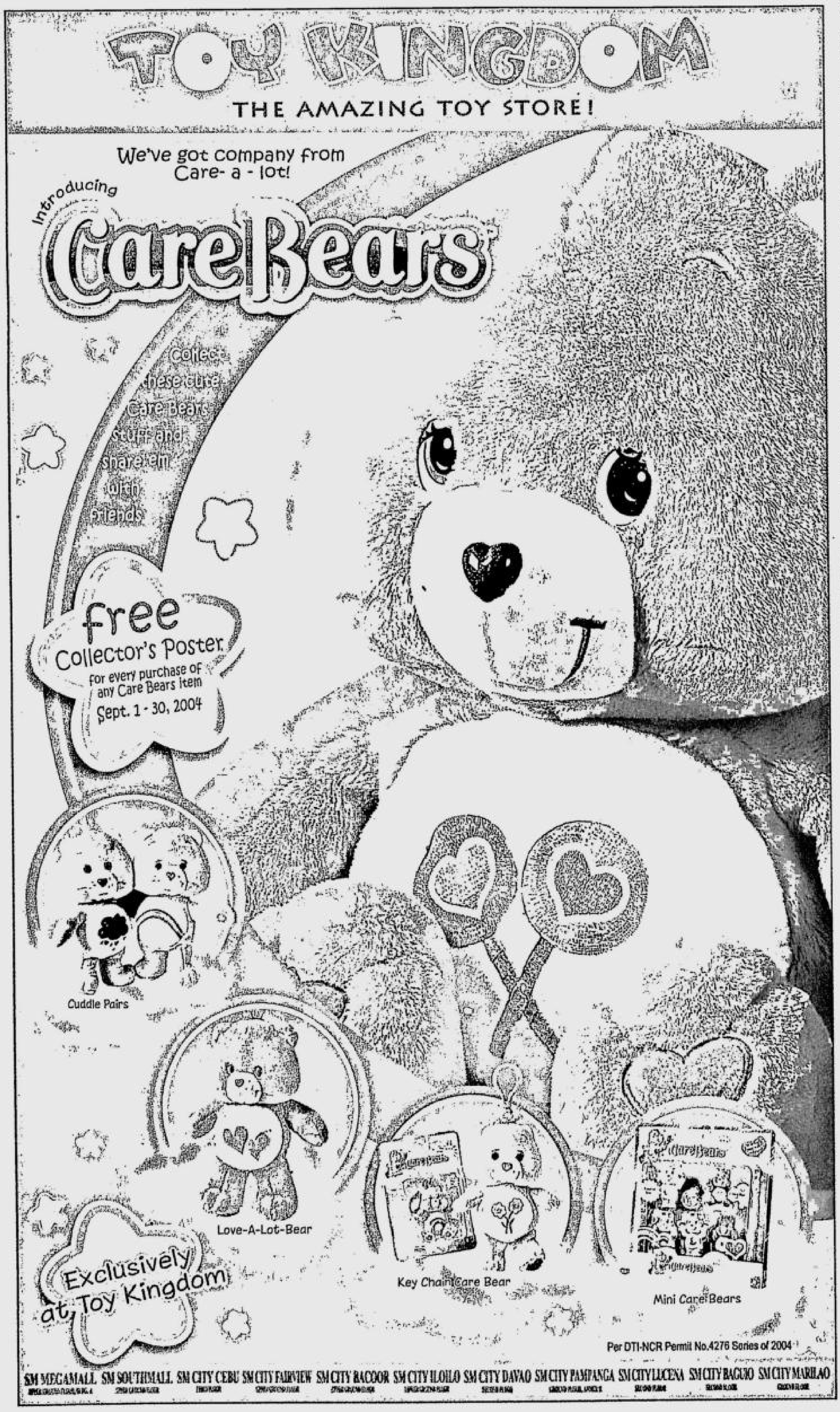
After a string of action movies, some of which were hits, Joseph produced his own movies, under his Rica Films. The first was "Utol ni Ben Tumbling," directed by Diego Cagahastian.

"It was okay," he says of the movie. "It broke even. But the next film, 'Rey Guinto, Terror Hunter,' left me broke. I invested five million pesos, and I recovered only a million. That was when I grew tired of the business. It's difficult to pursue a business that you have no knowledge of. The production was mismanaged. I became disheartened. I decided that being an actor was only a dream."

He ended his movie career in 1992 when he went to the US to study.

"As a licensed chiropractor, I had to prove constantly that I could help people with their afflictions," explains Joseph. "After some successes, patients began referring

FOR MARK A34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GSIS goes after ₱40B in contributions

By Michelle V. Remo

STATE pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) said it would go after several government agencies for some P40 billion in unremitted employees' contributions.

The GSIS refused to name these agencies, but stressed that it would not shoulder the full benefits of retiring employees of the agencies in question.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said the pension fund had already put in place the so-called premium-based policy, under which the GSIS would pay a member only the amount of benefits commensurate to the contributions remitted by his employer to the pension fund.

"This means that if an employee has been in government service for 35 years but has only 10-year worth of contributions remitted to the GSIS, we will pay him only the amount equivalent to 10 years," said Garcia in a press briefing.

The same rule applies to state employees who will voluntarily retire under the government's streamlining program.

The program was estimated to cost P15 billion. Under the program, employees of agencies or offices deemed the least necessary can opt to retire voluntarily. This was aimed at cutting government expenses and easing the country's budgetary woes.

The amount required for the streamlining program is on top of the average of P26 billion that the GSIS is spending yearly for pension payments.

For this program, the national government had requested a $300-million loan from the World Bank, which was processing the loan application and expected to make a decision on the government's request next year.

In the meantime, the GSIS said it had posted a gross revenue of P60.02 billion in 2003, and expected its revenue to hit at least P62.33 billion this year. It added that for 2003, expenses for the payment of benefits accounted for only 7.33 percent of its total revenue. For 2004, its expenses were estimated at 6.43 percent of revenue.

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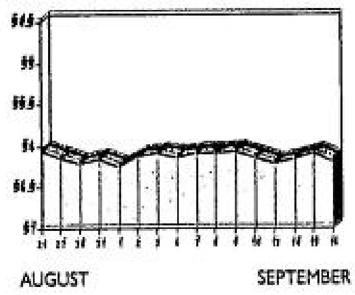

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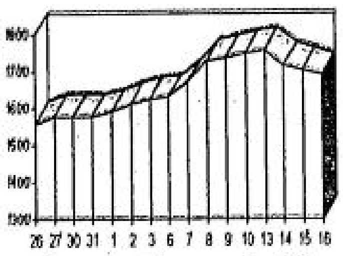
STOCK MARKET

Stocks down, profit taking continues



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed down 0.83 percent yesterday as profit takers continued to cash out of the market after its recent run-up to four-year highs, dealers said.

An overnight downturn on Wall Street also weighed on sentiment, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index ended down 14.22 points at 1,691.86 after trading between 1,685.68 and 1,712.92.

The broader all-shares index ended 6.76 points lower at 1,065.93.

Losers outnumbered gainers 38 to 35, while 51 stocks ended unchanged.

Volume turnover rose to 2.62 billion shares worth P647.9 million from 908.79 million shares worth P528.49 million on Wednesday.

"The market is taking a healthy, well-deserved rest. I don't know whether it will be an extended one," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P20 to P1,350 while Globe Telecom fell P15 to 1,005. Pilipino Telephone retreated 5 centavos to P2.75 .

Shopping mall developer SM Prime fell 10 centavos to P6.

San Miguel Corp. saw its B shares, available to foreigners, fall P1.50 to P68.50 but San Miguel A ended unchanged at P57.50. *AFP*

US businessmen back GMA reform agenda

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN businessmen have given the thumbs up to President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to undertake "painful" reforms in solving the country's ongoing fiscal crisis and projected power crisis.

This was revealed by RP-US Business Council chair Ramon R. del Rosario Jr., who accompanied 40 CEOs and key executives of American firms to a meeting with President Arroyo and her economic managers over lunch in Malacañang on Wednesday.

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER, del Rosario said: "The US delegation expressed admiration and very strong support for the President's reform agenda, particularly on the decisive steps being taken to address the country's fiscal problems and to assure a reliable supply of electricity in the future."

The American businessmen urged the President to continue pursuing aggressively the major revenue measures needed to boost government revenues and the implementation of full-cost based pricing for energy to attract fresh investments into the energy sector.

In the meantime, US Asean Business Council president Ernest Z. Bower, in a press briefing yesterday, said the country would need increased business promotion to improve its competitiveness in the US market, as Philippine exports to the US was expected to continue to drop.

The group said the end of the quota system on garments trade in January, as well as the impending implementation of security regulations such as a law on biosafety would contribute in the downtrend of trade with the US.

Bower, the head of the US business delegation, also said his group would continue to lobby with the US government for a US-

US BUSINESSMEN/B5

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo confers to Ernest Bower, president of the US-Asean Business Council, the Order of Sikatuna Lakan during rites held in Malacañang on Sept. 15, 2004. This was in recognition of Bower's contributions in the field of business.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4376, Series of 2004

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 14, 2004	Last Week September 07, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.14361	1.14721
Managed Fund - Peso	1.22237	1.21809
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0507	1.0396

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

KING JAMES AUCTION

AUCTION

AUCTION DATE: SEPT. 19, 2004 (SUNDAY) 10:30 AM
INSPECTION DATE: SEPT. 17 & 18, 2004 from 9:00AM-5:00PM

GENERATORS: CATERPILLAR 219KVA-DIGITAL ALMOST NEW; OLYMPIAN 125KVA UNUSED; DENYO 15KVA SOUND PROOF; HINO 90KVA; DENYO 20KVA SILENT TYPE; DENYO 12.5 KVA SILENT TYPE; DENYO 5KVA SILENT TYPE.

VEHICLES / EQUIPMENT: ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE; CABLE LAYING MACHINES; 3 SETS CINEMA APPARATUS; THEATER SCREEN / CURTAINS; OPEN TYPE AND CLOSE TYPE TRAILERS; SPLIT TYPE FLOOR MOUNTED / CEILING TYPE AIRCON; 8 UNITS 125CC HONDA DAELIM

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Notice to Insular Life Policyholders

Due to the extensive damage to crops and properties brought about by typhoons Marce and Chaba, Insular Life is extending assistance to its policyholders residing in the provinces of Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

The assistance is by way of an extension of grace period for an additional thirty days, making up a total of sixty-one (61) days grace period for premiums due from August 16 to September 30, 2004. Payment tendered within sixty-one (61) days from due date of the premium and/or old loan interest, will be accepted without overdue interest.

This gesture of concern will hopefully give Insular Life policyholders in the stricken areas some time to recover from the ill effects brought about by the recent calamities.

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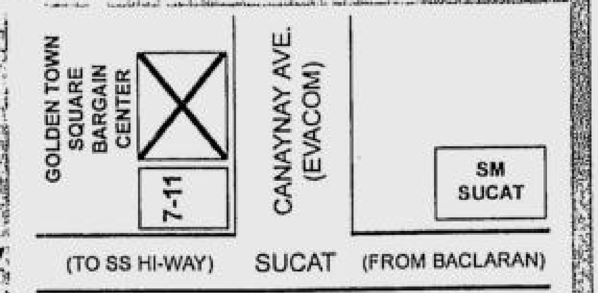

*Items are slightly used/repossessed with 30 days warranty on labor
*valid for cash purchases only

Per DT.I-NCR Permit No. 2033 Series of 2004

Fortune bucks tax hike plan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MAKERS of low-priced cigarettes yesterday bucked the proposal of tobacco giant Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) to slap a P1 per pack tax increase on all cigarette brands.

The move was seen raising as much as P4.5 billion a year in additional revenue for the government.

Officials of Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Associated Anglo American Tobacco Corp. said in a joint statement that what PMPMI wanted would kill low and medium-priced brands, and displace some 1,500 contract growers and about 800 factory workers.

Brands made by the Lucio Tan Group's Fortune include Hope, Champion, More, Boss and Salem, which are popular in the provinces.

Anglo American, on the other hand, makes unfiltered brands popular among low-income smokers, like Gloria, Ito Na, Bataan Matamis, Balasang, Sportman and Miracle.

Anglo American president Florante Dy said most of his firm's brands were handmade cigarettes that are slapped an excise tax of 40 centavos per pack of 30 sticks.

"Based on PMPMI's proposal, the taxes that we pay for these brands would jump by as much as 250 percent," Dy said. "If that happens, we are as good as dead."

Salvador M. Mison, spokesperson for the Lucio Tan Group, said Fortune was paying a tax of P1.12 per pack of 20 cigarettes.

This would increase by as much as 90 percent under the PMPMI tax proposal.

Mison said that, on the other hand, PMPMI, which pays P5.60 per pack, would pay only about 18 percent in added taxes.

"How can it be fair when prices of high-priced brands would go up by only 18 percent while that of lower-priced brands would go up by 250 percent?" he said.

PMPMI had urged the government to slap a P1 tax per pack on the first year and 50 centavos in the succeeding years.

Earlier, PMPMI managing director Chris J. Nelson was quoted as saying a flat rate would allow all tobacco firms to pay the same amount of increase, unlike the indexation of taxes, which would distort the market.

"What he's not saying is that while such a tax increase might not affect volumes of Philip and Marlboro, the volume of lower-priced cigarettes would drop significantly," he said.

Solons support power sector reforms—Perez

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez brushed off speculations that the legislative and executive branches "were not collaborating enough to avert a looming shortage in power supply."

Perez said that while there were perceptions that the two branches "have been occasionally at loggerheads on power-related issues," several senators led by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senate energy committee chair Miriam Defensor-Santiago have actually given "both open and silent support to the energy sector."

Perez cited the role played by Drilon in addressing the power requirements of Panay Island.

He said Drilon "played a crucial role in the installation of a power barge in the Visayan island that averted a major power shortage."

The 110-megawatt Pinamucan diesel plant was moved from Batangas to Panay to stave off an impending power shortage in the island.

Perez said the move became possible after Drilon obtained the endorsement and support of the local leaders of the island province for the stationing and operation of the plant.

Perez also cited the "valuable counsel and support" of Santiago.

"Senator Santiago raised the level of legislative attention to the country's power requirements, and has given us a forum to present the solutions to the power-related problems," Perez said.

Perez also said Santiago floated the idea of Congress giving the executive branch emergency powers to deal with the power issues as provided for under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

"While we are not contemplating on these emergency powers yet, it is heartening to note that we have a staunch supporter in Senator Santiago for future measures to deal with the power issues," Peréz said.

He also cited the position taken by several senators on the issue of power generation rates being charged by the National Power Corp. (NPC).

Perez said Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Joker Arroyo, Rodolfo Biazon, Richard Gordon and Santiago "were unanimous in the view that NPC charges should reflect true generation costs in order to attract new investors."

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33. Shopping
34. Porma-tambay
35. For drive-through
36. For stargazing
37. They're fuel efficient
38. Lasts a long time
39. Comes in different colors
40. Comes in different variants
41. Could be used to fetch kids
42. Fetch Tita
43. Fetch Tito
44. Drive Aileen to work
45. Great for hauling
46. They're stylish
47. Pangpa-macho
48. Pangpa-gwapo
49. Either can take you to the ball game
50. To badminton game

51. Bowling
52. To the soccer field
53. Both can drive you the movie house
54. Take you to the beach
55. Take you to the mountains
56. Province
57. Rivers
58. City
59. Take you to the office
60. Barkada house
61. Girlfriend's house
62. Good for Pampanga trips
63. Good for delivering books
64. Delivering itlog na pula
65. Delivering shoes
66. Delivering clothes
67. Taking ate to the delivery room
68. Good for transporting chairs
69. Transporting beds
70. Transporting pillows
71. School service for OB
72. Service for Pie
73. So you can make your own way
74. Make your friends happy
75. So you can do car-pool
76. So you can pick up your long time crush
77. So you can have a place to cry
78. A place to shout when you're pissed at work
79. A place to sleep when you're locked outside your house
80. A place to eat with your girlfriend
81. So you can go to Baguio without commuting
82. Go to Tagaytay with tatay
83. Go to Ilocos without being harassed
84. Good place to hide
85. Good place to take a nap
86. Make Mama proud
87. Make your neighbors envy
88. Make ate say wow
89. They have excellent Toyota engines
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RAV4 4x4 (50% dp)	1,268,000	634,000	53,784	36,915	29,237	20,973	17,044	14,401
RAV4 4x2 (9.54% dp) M/T	1,048,000	100,000	82,393	56,684	44,979	32,405	26,440	22,433
RAV4 4x2 (50% dp)	1,048,000	524,000	43,913	30,140	23,877	17,128	13,919	11,758

REVO

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
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VX240 2.4 DSL	958,000	100,000	76,507	52,635	41,745	30,075	24,539	20,830
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	68,235	46,944	37,260	26,844	21,903	18,578
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,815	43,902	34,849	25,107	20,485	17,375
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	60,206	41,420	32,881	23,689	19,328	16,392
GL GAS	698,000	100,000	50,373	34,655	27,517	19,824	16,175	13,715
DLX GAS (15.08%dp)	663,000	100,000	47,216	32,483	25,794	18,584	15,163	12,855
DLX GAS (50%dp)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,261	10,230	8,313	7,014
DLX DSL	690,000	100,000	52,331	36,002	28,556	20,573	16,786	14,248

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TOYOTA

Amex opens peso-based credit card facility in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER 88 years of offering dollar-denominated "plastics" in the Philippines, financial giant American Express Co. has ventured into the peso-denominated credit card business.

"Our long-term commitment to the market is clearly reflected in the sophisticated infrastructure we have set up for the new card," said Ian Fish, president of American Express Bank Philippines during the launch of the Peso Platinum credit card yesterday.

Amex Bank has likewise chosen the country to be the next hub of backroom services support for its global operations.

Fish said the new product would focus on the "affluent" market, or those individuals with earnings of at least P1 million a year.

Patty Henson, Amex Bank marketing head, said the bank decided to venture into credit cards denominated in the local currency despite cutthroat competition because there was a demand from premium clients whose earnings were in pesos and would like to be billed in pesos.

Since the Asian currency turmoil erupted in 1997, a lot of Filipino borrowers have steered clear of foreign currency debt exposures.

Henson said the bank expected the existing holders of dollar-denominated Amex credit cards to be the first ones to sign up for this new product, which offered a lot of perks for members.

"It's more than a credit card—it's a lifestyle accessory," Henson said.

By launching the Platinum Peso product, she said the bank would be setting a new standard for premium credit cards in the market.

Among the features was a stipend requirement of P45 for conversion of reward points into air miles, as well as the widest choice of airline networks and international brands.

The product also offers a round-the-clock worldwide service and support for traveling Filipinos, as well as generous travel privileges.

"American Express pioneered the world's first platinum card in 1984 in the United States and, over the years, the product is often referred to as the 'ultimate plastic' because of its exclusive and valuable benefits," Fish said.

The betrayal of the Filipino farmer

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THE FILIPINO farmers feel betrayed.

When the Philippines agreed to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), the government made two promises: it would provide agriculture tariffs that would sufficiently protect the farmers, and the farmers would receive the support structures necessary for them to compete globally.

Many farmers believe that both promises were not kept. Without adequate consultation with the farmers, the Philippines unilaterally agreed to tariff rates well below what were allowed by the WTO. For example, we have a 7-percent tariff rate for many vegetables where we could have gotten the 40-percent WTO bound rate.

The promised agriculture support also did not come. For example, instead of the Department of Agriculture (DA) getting at least P32 billion yearly, as embodied in the Agriculture Fisheries and Modernization Act (Afma), the DA actually received from 1999 to 2004 less than P17 billion a year.

Smuggling

On top of this, the massive entry of smuggled agriculture goods into the country has further increased the farmers' feeling of betrayal. This was not always the case.

There were times when the farmers, working with the government, had significant success in fighting smuggling. An example was when the smuggling rate for perishable products in Metro Manila dropped from 40 percent to 1 percent from Jan. 1 to March 15 last year.

However, smuggling of different products persisted in other ports outside Metro Manila. The creation last March of the three anti-smuggling bodies, i.e., the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-Smuggling, the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force and the Anti-Smuggling Information and Intelligence Center, had been instrumental in curbing smuggling and helping restore the farmers' faith in government.

For example, the "no auction/no redemption" policy. for smuggled agriculture goods was finally put in writing because of an Alyansa Agrikultura recommendation made during a Cocas meeting. Another example was that requests for smuggling investigations were finally being attended to after months of neglect. There was an instance when the inaction of the Department of Agriculture to the requested investigation on the irregular importation of carrots that went on for six months, severely damaging the livelihood of 80,000 Cordillera farmers.

Unfortunately, last Aug. 24, the three anti-smuggling bodies were abolished. Since then, smuggling has been on an upsurge.

On that day, several press releases were published stating that the "no auction" policy had been reversed. Two days later, Customs Commissioner George Jereos told the Alyansa Agrikultura at a public forum that this was not true.

On Sept. 4, the BOC announced the auction of agriculture products in paid media advertisements. On Sept. 8, when the Alyansa raised the issue at the initial meeting of the Multi-Sectoral Coalition Against Smuggling (MCAS), the BOC officials said this was a mistake. The alternating government positions certainly did not help the farmers' confidence in government.

Recent events

In a Senate hearing last Sept. 12, the Alyansa presented a document where eight onion importers wrote that they had imported 174 container vans of onions that did not have the required import permits. However, a DA official reported that only 55 container vans could be located. The remaining 119 vans were unaccounted for.

The Alyansa then suggested that representatives from the DA, BOC, and the Senate proceed immediately to the Customs area to inspect the 55 container vans that were allegedly still there. The four representatives decided on inspecting three vans randomly picked. The results were shocking.

Two of the three vans were no longer there. One van had been transferred to the warehouse of the erring importer because of an Aug. 25 written recommendation by an agriculture official. Farmers and several Customs officials questioned why an illegal shipment would be given to the care of the erring importer.

The second van was released because part of it contained a product that had an import permit. The farmers questioned why a violator of the law should still have access to a van that carried smuggled goods.

The third van was still there. However, 70 percent of the illegally imported onions had disappeared. The farmers concluded that all the 174 vans were considered unaccounted for, and all of the randomly inspected vans showed evidence of corruption.

Government's sincerity

Since the abolition of the three anti-smuggling bodies, the farmers feel increasingly betrayed by the government response to the recent upsurge in smuggling. Nevertheless, the farmers continue to work through the private sector-led Multi-Sectoral Coalition Against Smuggling (MCAS). They hope the government agencies will support their efforts. In fact, the BOC has done much recently in this area.

But because of other recent events, the farmers believe that the restoration of the three anti-smuggling bodies is an imperative that cannot wait. Decisive government action in this area, which can generate at least P84 billion a year and significantly help us out of the fiscal crisis, will be perceived as an indicator of the government's sincerity. It will also lessen the deep sense of betrayal the farmers feel today.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

CAP puts off signing deal with property investor

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

EDUCATION plan provider College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) is putting off, at least for a few days, the signing of a P6-billion property investment with a local real estate firm.

Lawyers of CAP and the prospective investor agreed to the delay to iron out the deal and "make it more tax efficient."

According to sources in CAP, the company may ink the agreement over the weekend.

The sources said that the final structure would involve the issuance of preferred shares to the property investor. But both parties have yet to agree on the final amount.

The proposed deal calls for the transfer of a 3,000-hectare property from the local investor to CAP, the amount of which will be placed in the plan provider's trust fund, CAP first vice president Bobby Café said in a media briefing on Wednesday.

Café said private appraisers Cuervo Appraisers Inc. and Philippine Real Estate Ratings, both accredited by the Securities and Exchange Commission, had pegged the value of the land at P200 per square meter.

To maximize the value of the new asset, CAP will propose selling it to schools, Café said. The value of the land can grow over the next five years.

For schools without immediate cash, CAP may propose certain arrangements such as offsetting the acquisition cost against CAP's liabilities to those schools, Café added.

He also said CAP had paid penalties to the SEC for exceeding the P5-billion limit of securities it was allowed to sell.

The company exceeded the limit by P64 million in August.

The SEC earlier asked CAP to stop selling securities until it had fully complied with requirements for its application to sell an additional P1 billion worth of preneed plans.

Café said that, as of Wednesday, the company had submitted clarifications on its trust fund contributions and a justification of the interest rate used for its trust fund, as part of requirements for its application to sell new securities.

Yesterday, Carlo Taparan, a member of the SEC's oversight committee for CAP, submitted his resignation.

SEC Chair Fe Barin quickly pointed out that Taparan's decision had nothing to do with CAP. Barin said Taparan was moving on to the private sector. The SEC however has yet to accept his resignation.

"The committee will continue its work," Barin said.

PNOC sees ₱3.3B in net income for '04

THE STATE-RUN Philippine National Oil Co. and its five subsidiaries see a consolidated net income of P3.3 billion this year, despite allegations that the firms have posted losses of as much as P1.4 billion.

PNOC president Eduardo Mañalac yesterday showed reporters the pro forma income statements indicating the actual results of the first six months of the year. The statements also showed the company's estimates of how much it and its subsidiaries would earn in the second half.

Actual January-June results showed PNOC and its five subsidiaries—PNOC Energy Development Corp., PNOC Exploration Corp., PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp., PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp. and PNOC Development and Management Corp.—posted a net income of almost P3.5 billion.

Its second semester net income might go down a bit, resulting in a projected profit of P3.3 billion for the whole year. Most charges are usually booked during the second half of the year, the official said.

Mañalac said the allegations of a P1.4-billion net loss for the PNOC parent firm this year could have arose from a misinterpretation of the company's books.

The parent firm alone is expected to post a net income of P167 million this year, on revenues of P504 million.

Factoring in the loan-related expenses of its subsidiaries, PNOC would have a net loss of P1.4 billion as it also had its own expenses worth around P337 million.

For 2005, PNOC and its five subsidiaries forecast a "conservative" consolidated net income of P2.7 billion on consolidated revenues of P28.5 billion.

Abigail L. Ho

RP, China oil search open to new partner

By Abigail L. Ho

THE RECENTLY signed agreement between the Philippine National Oil Co. and the China National Offshore Oil Corp. for a joint study of the South China Sea area has left the door open for another national oil firm that may be interested in the $7.5-million project.

PNOC president Eduardo Mañalac said in a briefing yesterday that the agreement, which was signed in China during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit there two weeks ago, had a provision that would allow another player to undertake the study with the Filipino and Chinese national oil firms, if any such firm would be interested.

The terms that would spell out the participation of the third oil firm, however, should be mutually acceptable to PNOC and CNOOC, Mañalac said.

After the news came out about the PNOC-CNOOC agreement, the government of Vietnam said it was "very concerned" that the agreement was signed without consulting other stakeholders in the issue.

Vietnam, China and Taiwan have staked their claim to the whole Spratly islands group, while Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines are claiming portions of the group.

He said there were efforts, through the Department of Foreign Affairs, to get in touch with Vietnam's national oil firm PetroVietnam.

He also explained that political claims would be set aside in the meantime while a study of the South China Sea area for potential petroleum resources was ongoing.

"We don't want to tinge it (the joint study) with any issue of claims," Mañalac said. "(The agreement we have) is not between governments but between two national oil companies. We want to encourage cooperation and this is a start."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 16, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17	17	41,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44	44.5	114,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41.5	583,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27.5	159,000
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	14,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	56,500
Security Bank Corp.	22.5	22.5	21.5	21.75	60,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	120	120	120	120	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1540	1550	1540	1550	340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.75	21	20.75	21	5,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1010	1015	1005	1005	45,510
Ipeople Inc.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	66,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.0575	0.046	0.0575	26,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	3,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.75	4,528,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1370	1370	1345	1350	102,210
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	230,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	4,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.5	15.25	15.25	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.75	23.25	23.25	133,100
Petron Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.7	205,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.24	2.32	2.24	2.32	63,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	153,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.45	404,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.16	2.18	6,817,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	42,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	76,600
Pancake House Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57	57.5	16,600
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	69.5	68.5	68.5	332,800
Universal Robina Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	40,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	158,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6.2	6	6.1	2,870,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.3	215,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.033	19,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	60,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.5	1.5	21,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1	1	1	1	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.75	14.75	14	14	29,300
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	700,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	1,120,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,060,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	3,110,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.2	2.12	2.14	3,512,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	831,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	120,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.075	0.075	600,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	270,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.52	1,745,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.2	4,888,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	90,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.53	52,110,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	40,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	240,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	39,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	150,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	90,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	180,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	28,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	44	44	44	44	100
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	190,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	1,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	650,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	3.3	3.3	530,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	52,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	20,000
Far Eastern University	460	460	460	460	2,360
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	20,717,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	180,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.45	41,770,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.165	0.145	0.15	4,170,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.36	30,970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.02	6,697,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.215	3,690,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	21,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	770,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.94	2	1.94	2	45,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	12,565,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	53,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.74	1.9	1.74	1.74	93,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,120,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.016	600,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	602,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	868,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.033	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	8,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	28,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	92,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	400,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of directors of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** elected Aurelio Montinola III as president in its Sept. 15 meeting. Montinola will succeed Xavier Loinaz effective Jan. 1, 2005.

* * *

THE BOARD of Directors of **Republic Glass Holdings Corp.** unanimously approved a resolution declaring a cash dividend of 15 percent equivalent to P0.15 per share. Dividends will be paid out of the corporation's 2001 retained earnings.

* * *

JOLLIVILLE Holdings Corp. appointed Nanette Ongcarranceha as president effective immediately in its board meeting on Sept. 15.

* * *

MILAGROS Reyes, director of **PetroEnergy Resources Corp.** (PERC), lodged her 133,426 PERC shares with Philippine Central Depository Inc. on Sept. 14.

Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

September 16, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.822436	1.000000	56.1060
Japan	Yen	0.007477	0.009091	0.5101
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461140	1.776600	99.6779
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105451	0.128218	7.1938
Switzerland	Franc	0.647945	0.787836	44.2023
Canada	Dollar	0.634351	0.771307	43.2750
Singapore	Dollar	0.486130	0.591086	33.1635
Australia	Dollar	0.571851	0.695314	39.0113
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.181586	2.652590	148.8262
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219311	0.266660	14.9612
Brunei	Dollar	0.484699	0.589345	33.0658
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019914	0.024213	1.3585
UAE	Dirham	0.223926	0.272272	15.2761
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.215900	68.2193
Argentina	Peso	0.275754	0.335289	18.8117
Brazil	Real	0.283305	0.344471	19.3269
Denmark	Kroner	0.134425	0.163447	9.1704
India	Rupee	0.017973	0.021853	1.2261
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216459	0.263193	14.7667
Mexico	New Peso	0.071410	0.086828	4.8716
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540756	0.657505	36.8900
Norway	Kroner	0.119020	0.144716	8.1194
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013975	0.016992	0.9534
South Africa	Rand	0.125205	0.152237	8.5414
Korea	Won	0.000719	0.000874	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.109505	0.133147	7.4703
Syria	Pound	0.022763	0.027678	1.5529
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024375	0.029638	1.6629
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000429	0.000522	0.0293

US . . .

From page B1

RP free trade.

"After the US-Singapore FTA was passed last year, we hope to have a US-RP FTA next but Malaysia may beat (the Philippines) to the door," Bower said. "We are lobbying our government to push ahead with this."

The two countries are preparing a trade and investment framework agreement that will pave the way for the negotiations on a US-RP FTA.

During the meeting with the President and her economic team, the US businessmen raised several issues that they said the government should look into. These included the full implementation and funding of the Optical Media Law (which tightens rules against piracy of music, movie and software CDs and DVDs); full implementation of the cargo open skies policy at the Diosdado Macapagal Airport at Clark, and a stop to the entry of second hand vehicles into the country via Subic.

The US trade mission, consisting of 21 companies, is the largest business mission from the US to the country in recent years. Members of the mission include officials of The Boeing Co., Citigroup, FedEx, UPS, Philip Morris, General Motors, Ford Motor Co., Microsoft, Unysis Corp. and El Paso Energy.

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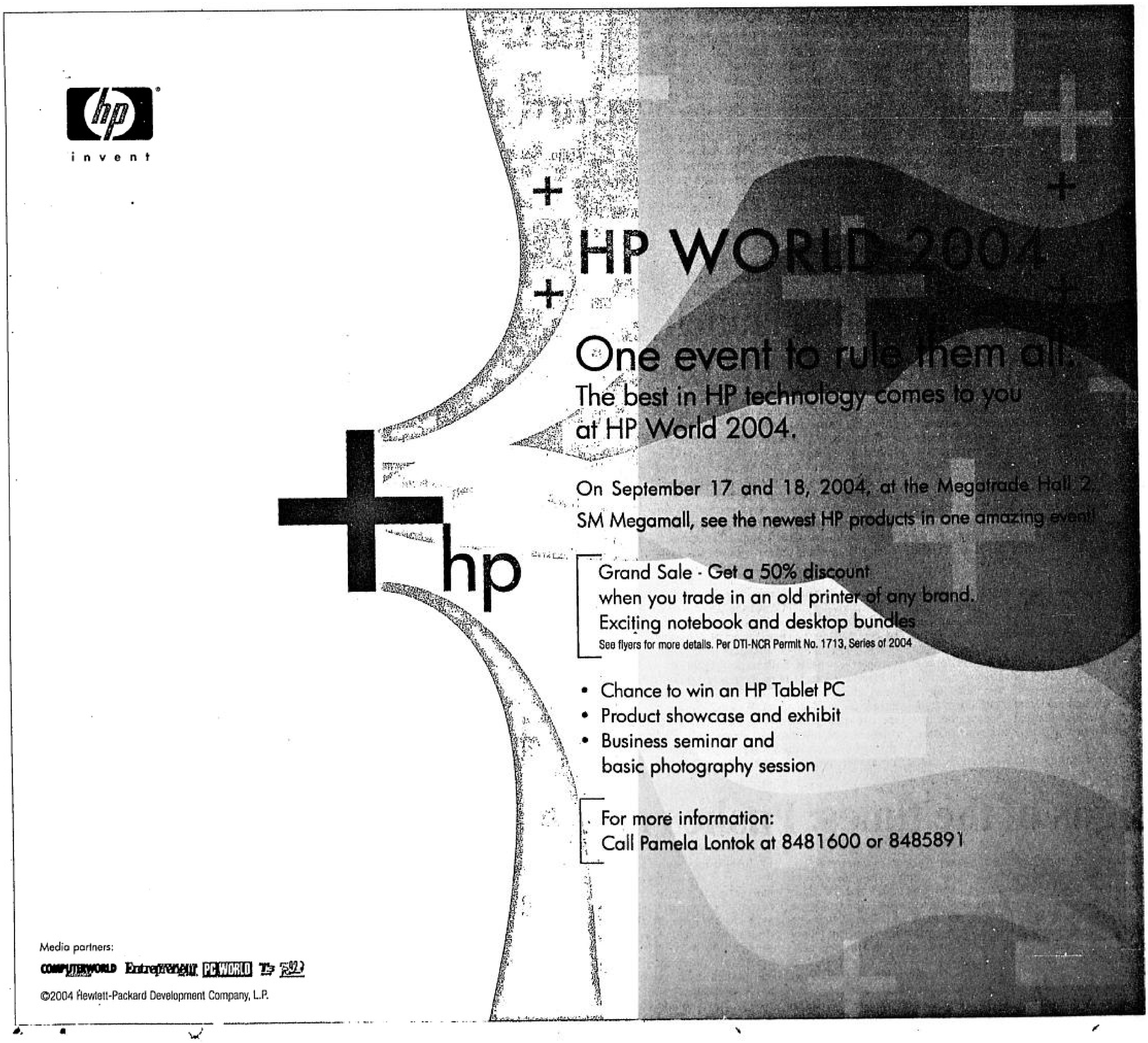

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BUSINESS *Friday*

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

PR practice: Urgent need for re-imaging

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EVERYONE agrees, including Al Ries, author of the best-selling book, "The Fall of Advertising & the Rise of PR," that public relations has become many organizations' favorite or powerful instrument when it comes to developing a new brand, changing a mindset, and rallying people to support a cause.

Public Relations practice worldwide, has little or no problem with image. That is, because the practice is enabled by the science of research, no-nonsense management standards, and the fine art and science of strategy formulation and execution. Hill & Knowlton, Golin Harris, Burston-Marsteller, Ogilvy PR, Edelman—these global companies have fully developed standards of doing consulting business.

In the Philippines, however, the PR profession is drawing mixed reactions. Some reduce the job to simple press agentry, others use it as a tool to hurt competition. Only recently, a publicist has admitted purveying a "column feed" that constituted a personal attack on a popular and controversial television host.

That's one reason public relations practice in the Philippines "ironically has an image problem," according to Pete Padre Jr., former president of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), an organization that is geared to set its house in order today, beginning with the holding of a long-delayed election.

The profession needs a much needed push to be forward looking rather than resting on its laurels—or licking its wounds.

Professionalize

Padre, former veteran journalist, points out: "Public relations, although it has been around for almost five decades, still has a long way to go to truly professionalize its ranks."

"I would like to see new PRSP leaders who will be role models for the young who are enamored by this rising communication discipline," says Charlie Agatep, former PRSP president and founder of Agatep & Associates. Agatep, who is one of the Convenor's Group—composed of past PRSP presidents—will preside over the polls on Friday, armed with an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

For 2004, the PRSP election was originally scheduled on Jan. 9, but it was postponed for an indefinite period, "depriving the members of their valuable right to elect their directors and officers once every year," points out Max Edralin Jr., a PR stalwart and head of the convenor's group.

The advance of global and local companies in the Philippines and elsewhere spurred the growth of PR as a management discipline through which organizations communicate to their stakeholders. The "power of the third party endorsement," the clear advantage of PR, is increasingly being used by organizations—with great success.

Drive young

Rene Nieva, president of the International Public Relations Association (Philippine chapter), sees a silver lining: "The PR profession continues to advance and develop with more and more well-educated, idealistic and driven young people going into it - and doing quite well."

Viewed from PR's standpoint, advertising can actually be a powerful tool for PR's advocacy or educational campaigns. Advertising spaces and television "info-mercials" have been widely used to serve the ends of PR.

"PR is on the ascendancy," declares Manny Gutierrez, managing director of DDB Philippines.

An advertising man who realized the value of PR, Manny points out: "PR will continue to be relevant. A lot of companies are combining the merits of traditional PR (corporate PR), brand and MPR (which is about the consumer's relationship with the brand) with their advertising campaign. PR will not replace advertising, but it's a great part of a firm's promotions mix."

Broadly defined by Sonny Valencia of Coca Cola Bottlers, the "over-arching goal of public relations is to harmonize and create a state of high understanding between and among organizations and their respective stakeholders."

The practice of public relations continues to flourish. With that success, however, comes the problem of providing a vision to a profession that is attracting more and more young managers. With advances in telecommunications, the practice of public relations has become more challenging—and rewarding.

The umbrella organization of this profession, the PRSP, has not been forward-looking enough to match the giant strides of the practice. The relevance of such an organization has been questioned, when politics entered the picture.

Many agree, though, that a professional organization such as PRSP may not be needed by the veterans, but the young practitioners need a forum where they can test their new ideas, where the veterans become mentors and the young bring in energy and idealism.

The fate of the practice of PR does not hinge on the elections of PRSP today, but surely the success by which the turnover of leadership from one to the other is an indication about the maturity of the practitioners. It also says a lot about the political will of well-meaning members, not only to "set its house in order," but give it a much-delayed momentum.

(The author is chair and CEO of Creative Point Int'l., Philippine affiliate of Hill & Knowlton.)

Bank's first TV ad in 8 years hopes to tap broader base

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE CATCHPHRASE of the ad, "Sayang ang miles" may have been thought of in the drawing room, but the line was uttered by a real consumer.

141 Worldwide executive creative director Cats Guerrero says the group was cooking up the catchphrase for the new HSBC Mabuhay Miles TV ad when somebody from the agency explained that while in line in a supermarket, he actually heard a husband urging his wife to use the credit card to pay for groceries because "sayang ang miles."

Apparently, the guy told the wife to use their HSBC Mabuhay Miles card to pay for the purchase to accumulate enough miles for free travel.

That anecdote became the main message of the HSBC ad.

The recently launched ad of HSBC or The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. is the first local TV commercial of the British bank in eight years.

HSBC's image has always been with the A, B market largely because it is a foreign bank, which has been in the Philippines for over 100 years now.

141 group account director Paul Perez says "the perception is that HSBC is up there but the card is reaching out to a broader base. We are promoting it in the malls."

The TV ad shows a mother packing her clothes, preparing for a trip, in front of her teary eyed son. She tells him that she works hard to buy him things. Then adds "sayang ang miles."

The image conveyed by the ad is not A, B at all, as it adopts a telenovela story line.

What the ad is selling, of course, is greater use of the HSBC Mabuhay Miles, where for every P45 worth of purchase, you earn one mile.

Accumulating about 3,000 miles, which means paying for about P135,000 worth of goods and services, enables you to get one free ticket to a domestic flight in PAL to Kalibo, Legaspi, Naga, Roxas or Tugeugarao. PAL is the co-brand in the card.

MA SAYANG ANG MILES

THE LITTLE boy in the new HSBC Mabuhay Miles credit card TV commercial gives emotion to the ad's telenovela concept.

Using the card to buy airplane tickets in PAL or Air Philippines also earns one mile.

The accumulation of miles is doubled or tripled depending on the type of card one holds and the shop one buys from.

"We wanted to talk to a broader base. Research tells us this is the market that spends seriously and is budget conscious. A lot of people are still cash oriented but using the credit card carries better value," says Guerrero.

He says adopting a telenovela concept enables a wider market to relate to the storyline. Most working mothers want to have some psychic reward and travel is one of them.

HSBC manager, cards direct marketing, Rafael L. S. Montemayor, says the bank held a focus group discussion among cardholders and the bank realized that the Mabuhay Miles had the biggest potential.

However HSBC also learned that the the cardholders thought that the rewards program was not achievable and that to get a free international flight, one would have to spend millions of pesos.

An international award chart of HSBC shows an accumulation of P675,000 worth of payments enables one to have a free ticket to Hong Kong, Taipei or Xiamen.

Youth power to market a card

IN THE Philippines, MTV has been an influence in the lives of young Filipinos. With music as an effective tool for self expression, it provides the young with an accessible medium for a total music experience.

To fully express themselves, the MTV generation needed a personal imprint on their daily lives, a statement that shows what MTV is all about—cool, young, confident, creative and independent. Capitalizing on youth interest, MTV embarked on a 360-degree strategy to reach youths via on-air, online, on-the-ground, on-the-move (mobile) as well as product merchandising including radio, print and MTV-branded financial services, one of which is the MTV Credit Card.

A hit in Singapore, Malaysia, India and Brunei, the MTV Credit Card will be launched in the Philippines this month to give young Filipinos access to a new purchasing experience. It is the newest co-branded card between Equitable CardNetwork Inc. and MTV Networks Asia, the same team that brought to the country the MTV Debit Card.

Accepted in all Visa-accredited establishments worldwide and backed by hundreds of partner merchants, cardholder benefits include clubbing, craving, fashion, entertainment, indulgence, escapades, gadgets and other things important to young people. There are also discounts, freebies, exclusive invites to events and places and other perks and privileges.

MTV Networks Asia vice president for network development, licensing and merchandising Christopher James said, "Although there are many credit cards available in the market, there are none specifically catered to the needs of young people."

MTV
4921 2345 6789
10/04 09/08
FLAUNT IT
VISA

TERRY Chua and Christopher James

This card caters to 18 to 35-year-old young professionals. "Our research shows that this market segment in Asia has the highest purchasing power compared to the previous generations. Besides having a higher earning income, they are also savvy shoppers and generous spenders that consume quality products, often treating themselves, family and friends. They may choose to indulge things that reflect their current lifestyle and attitude," added James.

MTV Networks Asia is confident the card will be well-received in the Philippines. "We have observed that young people across the region display some similar traits in spending and beliefs. For one, they work hard to attain their desired lifestyle and often share views on living life to the fullest. The MTV Credit Card is highly relevant for them," MTV Networks Asia director for licensing and merchandising Terry Chua explained.

In addition to the many benefits available in the Philippines, MTV Credit Card holders who travel in the region will also be able to enjoy the benefits extended in each country. That translates to immediate access to the hottest clubs locally and discounts at the various local stores.

The launch of MTV Credit Card in the Philippines can also be attributed to the success of the partnership with Equitable CardNetwork Inc., which has been a critical factor in ensuring quality service. Their network has earned them the lion's share of the local market in terms of cardholder base and gross sales volume.

Working in close partnership, the two companies are confident on the success of the MTV Credit Card in the Philippines and share a common belief in presenting the best and the most relevant benefits to cater to the young people in the nation.

Wall Street Journal to launch Saturday edition by Sept. '05

IN AN effort to capture more readers and advertising dollars, Dow Jones & Co. is launching a Saturday edition of its flagship newspaper, The Wall Street Journal, beginning in September 2005, the company announced Wednesday.

The sixth daily edition of the paper, to be called Weekend Edition, is part of a broader effort to bring more consumer and lifestyle stories to the paper in order to reduce the Journal's heavy reliance on financial and technology advertising, which tends to fluctuate widely.

Just last week, Dow Jones warned investors that it would miss its previously announced forecasts for third quarter earnings due to a dropoff in advertising bookings for September.

"Accelerating the momentum the Journal has built in consumer advertising over the past two and a half years ... should enable us to diversify and moderate cyclicality in Journal ad revenues," Richard Zannino, the chief operating officer of Dow Jones, said in a statement.

Zannino said the launch would be "modestly dilutive" to the company's earnings in 2005, but he did not elaborate.

Company spokeswoman Nicole Pyhel declined to disclose how much the company planned to spend on the launch, but she said it would involve hiring 150 new employees, most of them editors and reporters.

"Fridays are big news days, particularly for our core coverage," managing editor Paul Steiger told the paper's staff in an internal memo. "Publishing only five days a week has forced us to delay giving our readers our take on that news until Mondays, and has invited them to get that news from others."

The sixth daily edition of the paper would come at no additional cost to Journal subscribers, and they will have the option of having it delivered to a different address from where they get the paper on business days, Pyhel said.

Previous efforts to bring more consumer-oriented articles and advertising to the newspaper include the 1998 launch of Weekend Journal, a special section appearing Fridays that has proven to be a hit with advertisers, as well as the Personal Journal section, which was launched in 2002 and appears three days a week. AP

Signs of the times: Pushes non-traditional media solutions

EVEN as the Philippine media industry suffers from scaled-down advertising budgets, rail marketing firm Trackworks is bent on pushing its initiative of non-traditional communications solutions. Its optimism is based on the Filipino's new-found love affair with the MRT.

"We've decided that it's time that advertisers consider options outside of traditional media," says Trackworks chief executive Lino Marable. He adds: "We all know that radio and TV placements cost a lot; at the same time, you have an influx of new media—primarily, Web- and mobile phone-based—that are beginning to eat into the effectiveness of the traditional media. The challenge for us is to find a better way.

In Trackworks' case, the railway.

Since Trackworks began selling advertising on the MRT two years ago as the latter's exclusive marketing agent, it has managed to convince clients of the magic of mass transit. After all, the MRT shuttles some 400,000 Filipinos everyday. To reach this market, Trackworks uses stickers, decals and posters inside the trains. In the stations, there are more of posters, standees and on certain days, even special events.

Outside of the MRT, the hundreds of thousands more who struggle along Edsa for their daily commutes are exposed to the sheer "bigness" of train wraps (customized stickers that cover entire trains) and the colorful billboards that line the MRT's support structures.

"For a price of one TV spot, we can give you a 16.1 km billboard 18 hours a day for 30 days," enthuses Trackworks SEVP for sales and marketing Levi Castillo.

Already, the aggressive posture of Trackworks seems to be paying off. A significant number of its current clients are repeat customers.

"We're here to offer the advertising community new options—because that's the only way we will continue to grow," explains Leo Gueco, Trackworks business development head. He notes that technology is changing the dynamics of the media industry, and this only emphasizes the need to deliver more eyeballs to advertisers, at the most optimal costs.

Apart from the advertising industry veterans Marable, Castillo and Gueco, the management team at Trackworks includes sales EVP Babee Barreiro, finance manager Felizardo Lao and operations manager Ed Felix.

SL Agritech millers forum to boost rice self-sufficiency

IN ITS bid to increase farm productivity, farmers' income, and availability of quality rice in the country, SL Agritech Corp, a research-based agribusiness venture of the Sterling Paper Group of Companies, recently held the successful "Millers Forum" in Makati City.

With "Our Seeds to Your Table" as the chosen theme, SL Agritech became the first company to bring together farmers, rice millers, and consumers in one location, virtually closing the supply chain loop for this important staple.

Inspired by the positive feedback the company received from rice farmers and millers with its first-ever, Philippine-bred and Philippine-produced high-yielding hybrid rice variety called SL-8H, the event was attended by luminaries of the rice industry.

Gracing this important gathering of key rice stakeholders is the newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture Arthur C. Yap, who is himself committed to making sure that the government's rice self-sufficiency program of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be a resounding success.

"This effort is undoubtedly a first in the industry, a feat, no other private company or government has ever done. This is SL Agritech's trailblazing initiative that will surely strengthen the entire supply chain continuum, benefiting all stakeholders and, more importantly, every rice consumer in the country. Consumers will soon have a taste of SL-8H in consumer outlets such as McDonald's, Jollibee, and Pancake House," said SL Agritech chair and CEO Henry Lim Bon Liong.

With only four years of existence in the Philippines, SL Agritech has emerged to be a leader in the production and distribution of high quality hybrid rice seeds in the country today.

SL Agritech has been continually collaborating with the government in its rice self-sufficiency program, a key platform of President Arroyo's administration.

The company produces and distributes the SL-8H high-quality hybrid rice seeds, having a 40-hectare base headquarters in Sta. Cruz, Laguna and a 400-hectare farm in Davao.

Known for its eating qualities, excellent milling recovery and high head rice recovery, SL-8H would drive the production of more quality rice grains for every given unit of paddy rice produced and harvested by Filipino farmers.

SL AGRITECH chair and CEO Henry Lim Bon Liong

Mongolian Stop in Manila

MONGOLIAN Stop is opening its third outlet at the Robinsons Place, Manila today, Sept. 17 at 10:30 a.m. After the store blessing, the ceremonial ribbon will be cut by guest of honor Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski and wife Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski. Mongolian Stop offers eat-all-you-can Mongolian food and other excitingly delectable a-la-carte dishes, which are prepared and cooked fresh everyday. Its other outlets are located at the 2nd level, Activity Center, Festival Mall, Filinvest, Alabang and at the Food Patio, 7th floor, PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Another branch will soon open at Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas, Pasig.

Greenhills for SMEs

SMALL and medium enterprises (SMEs) are active in Greenhills. Greenhills Shopping Complex contributes to the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the people to become small and medium entrepreneurs. SMEs can participate in the 11th Arts & Antiques Show from Sept. 17 to Oct. 10 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. The 24-day trade fair is organized by Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers (Patepco) with the full participation of Bayanihan Collectors Club, Bank Notes Collectors Association of the Philippines, Philippine Numismatic & Antiquation Society, Guild of Antique Dealers of the Philippines (Greenhills-Philtrade-Mabini clusters).

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region Office 6
Bgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The **National Food Authority, Region 6**, with its office at Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City invites all interested buyers to participate in the auction of 123,062.01 Lkg Raw Sugar at the Indicative Price of P780.00/Lkg located at VMC in Negros Occidental.

The sale shall be on a "Whole Lot" basis.

All interested buyers are required to post a bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash/Manager's Check payable to NFA. A pre-auction conference will be conducted before the auction proper.

Interested buyers shall submit the following documents to the Bidding Committee during the pre-auction conference:

1. Original and one (1) Certified photo copy of sugar trading license/registration
2. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the single proprietor or Board Resolution from the Secretary/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official/employee/stockholder and is authorized to represent in the auction and all activities pertinent therein.

The re-auction shall be conducted at the NFA - Iloilo Regional Office on the following schedule:

Venue of Pre-Auction Conference and Auction Proper	- Conference Room, 2nd Floor NFA, Iloilo Regional Office Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Pre-Auction Conference	- **September 22, 2004,** 10:00 a.m.
Auction Proper	- Right after Pre-Auction Conference

Bidding documents and Tender forms can be secured at NFA - Iloilo Regional Office after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00, starting **September 17-21, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgment are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the National Food Authority.

For more details, please contact RBAC Chairperson or Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan at Telephone Nos. (033) 320-6246 and 329-2165.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
RBAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Marinduque
MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to apply for eligibility and bid for the construction materials of the Improvement of the Sta. Cruz Waterworks System Project.

The approved budget is P7,424,037.00

Eligibility requirements and bid documents are available at the BAC Secretariat office and at the General Services Office, this municipality during office hours from September 17 to September 24, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements and bid documents is on September 27, 2004. The pre-bid conference for qualified bidders is on October 4, 2004, 2:00 PM at the General Services Office, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque. The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to one percent (1%) of the bid price in the form of cashier's/manager's check payable to the Municipality of Sta. Cruz.

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

For further inquiries, please contact Engr. Rustico R. Constantino or Engr. Ruby B. Manay at the Office of the Mayor at telephone number (042) 321-1276.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **LABELLA E. BASCO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 17 & 24, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila
TIN 000-449-457

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Budget and Management Bids and Awards Committee (DBM-BAC) invites G-EPS registered companies/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Security and Janitorial Manpower Services for FY 2005 in accordance with the following terms and schedule:

Project Title	Approved Budget for the Contract	Pre-Bid Conference	Advance Eligibility Submission	Deadline/Opening of Bids
Security Manpower Services	P5,861,000.00	October 8, 2004 9.00 A.M.	October 15, 2004 9:00 A.M.	October 22, 2004 9:00 A.M.
Janitorial Manpower Services	P5,500,000.00	October 8, 2004 9.00 A.M.	October 15, 2004 1:00 P.M.	October 22, 2004 1:00 P.M.

Bid documents shall be available at the Office of the Director, Administrative Service (AS), G/F, Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila starting September 17, 2004 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the AS Conference room, G/F, Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila.

For more information, please call the DBM-BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 735-49-02.

The DBM reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive, lowest calculated bid, and most advantageous to the government.

This supersedes the first invitation to bid published in the same newspaper on September 1, 2004.

(Sgd.) **LUIS C. LIWANAG II**
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI – September 17 & 24, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 106, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR
ISSUANCE OF DECREE OF ADOPTION
OF MINORS FERDINAND PAULO and
PAULA DENISE BOTH SURNAMED PAJARIT

SP. PROC. NO. Q-04-53154

JUDITH R. PAJARIT,
Petitioner.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER OF HEARING

A verified Petition was filed by Judith R. Pajarit, thru counsel, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered declaring her to be the adoptive parent of minors FERDINAND PAULO and PAULA DENISE, both surnamed PAJARIT.

Petition alleges, inter alia:

Petitioner is a former Filipino citizen, of legal age, now a citizen of the United States of America, permanently residing at 48 Mateo Avenue, Daly City, California, USA and presently residing in the Philippines at 163-B J.P. Rizal St., Project 4, Quezon City; that she is single, with no legitimate, illegitimate or other adopted children or descendants, that she desires to adopt minors Ferdinand Paulo, 13 years old and Paula Denise, 6 years old, her relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity; that minors biological parents are Ferdinand Llaneza Estojero and Jovelin Miriam Austria Pajarit, that she is the maternal aunt of minors' mother; that she is in possession of full civil capacity and legal rights, of good moral character, has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude and emotionally and psychologically capable of caring for children; that she is more than 16 years older than the minors and is definitely in a much better position to support and care for the minors in keeping with the means of the family; that she has been employed by the huge telecommunications company AT&T as Technical Consultant in the United States, that the biological parents of the minors are not married and are now formally separated from each other and they are without any steady income to financially support the rearing and education of the minors; that she is shouldering the necessary expenses of the minors for their rearing and education; that minor Ferdinand Paulo is now 13 years old, has voluntarily and knowingly given his written consent and is enrolled at St. Francis Academy of Quezon City while minor Paula Denise is studying at Trinity College of Quezon City; that minors' biological parents are not insane, nor intemperate, nor have they abandoned said minors and with full knowledge of petitioner's intention, that they expressly give their written consent to the adoption of the minors to the petitioner.

WHEREFORE, finding the Petition being sufficient in form and in substance, the same is given due course and is hereby set for hearing on October 6, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at which date and time any interested person may appear and show cause, if any, why the Petition should not be granted.

Let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City and in Metro Manila, before the hearing once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

The Court Social Worker is hereby directed to prepare a case study on the petitioner, the minors sought for adoption as well as the latter's biological parents and to conduct counseling session to them on the matter of adoption and to submit her reports on or before the scheduled hearing.

Petitioner is hereby directed to coordinate with the assigned Court Social Worker to facilitate the preparation of the case study.

SO ORDERED

Quezon City, 20 July 2004.

(Sgd.) NATIVIDAD GIRON-DIZON
Judge

(PDI – Sept. 10, 17 & 24, 2004)

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Special Bids and Awards Committee

BID BULLETIN No. 1

Project: Civil Service Commission –
Personnel Information Database System

1. **Changes in the Schedule of Bidding Activities**

The following are changes to the schedule of bidding activities for the above-named project, which was previously posted at the Philippine Daily Inquirer on September 13, 2004.

ACTIVITY	FROM	TO
1. Deadline for Letter of Intent (LOI)/eligibility requirements	October 4, 2004, 5:00 PM	October 4, 2004, 10:00 AM
2. Securing of bid documents	October 5, 2004	October 9-16, 2004
3. Pre-bid Conference	October 25, 2004 10:00 AM	October 18, 2004 10:00 AM
4. Submission of Bids	November 5, 2004, 5:00 PM	November 8, 2004, 12:00 noon
5. Opening of technical proposals	November 8, 2004 10:00 AM	November 8, 2004 2:00 AM
6. Opening of financial proposal	November 29, 2004 10:00 AM	November 26, 2004 10:00 AM

2. **Item no. 2, lines 10 and 11 should read:** "...agement, database administration, systems analysis and design, application development tool and related topics."

For further inquiries, please contact the Secretariat, Special Bids and Awards Committee, at telephone nos. 9320256 or 9320248.

(Sgd) Assistant Commissioner **ELMER R. BARTOLATA**
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2004)

De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde

in partnership with the

Philippine Association of National Advertisers Foundation

offers the

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The Post-Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Marketing Communications Management is a series of certificate courses designed to share the best practices, updated and enhanced knowledge, competencies and skills of marketing practitioners. Participants earn a Diploma in Marketing Communications Management upon completion of the six certificate courses. Completion of each courses entitles participant to a Certificate of Achievement. Marketing Professionals and experts will be facilitating the courses.

Certificate Course	Schedule
■ Market Research and Planning	Sept. 18 - October 23, 2004
■ Brand Equity	Nov. 6 - December 11, 2004
■ PR and Advocacy Marketing	Jan. 29 - March 5, 2005
■ Customer Relationship & Mktg.	Mar. 19 - April 23, 2005
■ Dynamics of Marketing Services	May 14 - June 18, 2005
■ Integrated Mktg. Communications*	July 2 - August 6, 2005

*Participants are required to take 3 other courses before taking this course.

Course Fee: 8,500 for PANA members and 9,000 for non members.
Courses are held every Saturday from 12:30 to 7:30 PM, at the International Conference Center of De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde

for inquiries and reservation, you may contact the:

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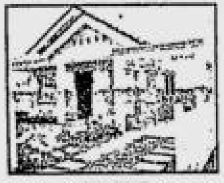

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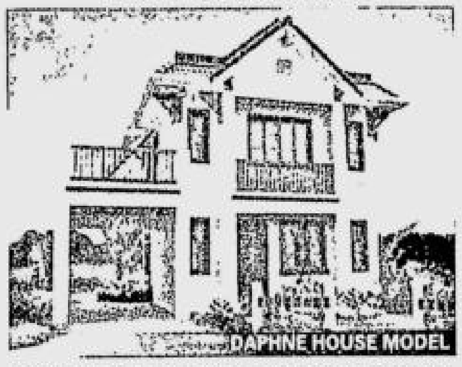

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Notice is given that the estate of the late MANUEL Q. ALCANTARA and CONSUELO VELASCO ALCANTARA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc. No. 431, Page No. 87, Book No. 424, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Lucila M. Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City.
(PDI-Sept. 9,16 & 23, 2004)

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NREA national confab

PLANNING and development officers of provinces, cities and municipalities have received clearance from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for them to attend on official time the National Convention and Trade Exhibits of the National Real Estate Association (NREA), as part of their continuing education and career development.

The three-day convention, the single-biggest gathering of real estate professionals and housing industry practitioners, will be held on Sept. 23-25 at the SM Megatrade Hall, Edsa, Mandaluyong city, it was announced by architect Nestor S. Mangio, NREA National President.

Citing CSC Announcement No. 23, issued last Aug. 27, architect Nathaniel von Einsiedel, overall convention chairman, welcomed the CSC accreditation for the NREA convention, saying that this will enable the planning officers of local government units to update their knowledge and skills on current practices as well as regulations in environment and town planning, to address the housing needs of their localities.

Practitioners who are non-members of NREA may call at tels. 913—4463 and 912-3492 or register directly at the convention booth.

Focused on the theme, "Creating the New Filipino Community for the 21st Century," the convention will have for its plenary workshop – sessions the following topics: 1) Planning and Design – Emerging Concepts; 2) Development Regulations – Standards & Procedures; 3) Project Financing & Implementation – Techniques & Requirements; and 4) Project Marketing & Estate Management.

SSC-R Manila celebrates SPDS week

THE SAN Sebastian College-Recoletos de Manila is celebrating its 8th Students Placement and Development Services Week that is anchored on the theme "Reinventing Student Development Services: Integrated Scheme Towards Excellence" on Sept. 20-24. One of the activities is a "Seminar-Workshop on Compassion Fatigue: the Stress of Serving Others" designed for guidance counselors and other helping professionals who are actively involved in counseling in different settings. The resource person is Dr. Johnny B. Decatoria, B.C.E.T.S. presently affiliated with the University of Santo Tomas-Graduate School Psychotrauma Clinic. The seminar will be held on Sept. 24 from 8-4 pm at the HRM Coffee Shop of San Sebastian College-Recoletos. The seminar fee is P700 inclusive of seminar kit, lunch, snacks and certificate. For more information, please call Ana Aseron or Maricor Tuazon at 7348931 local 114 and 115.

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Petron Fleet Card partners with the 41st Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and inks its sponsorship last Sept. 8, at the Petron Building in Makati City. Photo shows (from left) Charmaine V. Canillas *(advertising manager)* and Ramil Carmen *(cards business manager)*; and president Oscar L. Contreras, Jr., FPM *(Ayala Corporation's managing director)*, and Lina A. Aseneta, FPM *(AC ways and means sub-committee chairperson)* of PMAP. The 41st PMAP AC, slated for Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, Loakan Road, Baguio City, is expected to be attended by over 1,000 business owners, people managers, HR practitioners, and students.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

September 10, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	PROCUREMENT OF FORTY (40) NOTEBOOKS
Location of the Project	:	Bureau of Internal Revenue
Contract Duration	:	Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award
Approved Budget	:	P5,000,000.00
Source of Funding	:	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting **September 10, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 24, 2004, Friday at 2:00 p.m.**, at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **October 6, 2004, Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101, 981-7079, 981-7080 and 928-3235 (telefax) or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner - HRDS
Chairman BAC-IT

(PDI - Sept 10 & 17 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD
No. 3 Marcelino Street, Holy Spirit Drive, Diliman, Quezon City 1127
Tel. Nos. 951-4981 to 85 (Trunkline) / 951-3306 (Fax)
website: www.cesboard.gov.ph

REVISED POLICY ON SECURITY OF TENURE IN THE CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE (CES)
x--x

Resolution No. 548

WHEREAS, Article IV, Part III of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as approved by Presidential Decree No. 1, as amended dated September 24, 1972 created the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) to serve as the governing body of the Career Executive Service (CES) and is mandated by said law to promulgate rules, standards, and procedures on selection, classification, compensation and career development of members of the CES;

WHEREAS, in the case of Eugenio vs. Civil Service Commission (G.R. No. 115863) dated March 31, 1995, the Supreme Court ruled that from inception the CESB was intended to be an autonomous entity, albeit administratively attached to the Civil Service Commission;

WHEREAS, in the above-quoted case, the Supreme Court explained that under the Administrative Code of 1987, the purpose of attaching one functionally inter-related government agency to another is to attain "policy and program coordination;"

WHEREAS, in the case of Secretary of Justice Serafin R. Cuevas vs. Bacal, (G.R. No. 139382 dated December 6, 2000), the Supreme Court ruled that security of tenure in the career executive service is thus acquired with respect to rank and not to position and that the guarantee of security of tenure to members of the CES does not extend to the particular positions to which they may be appointed-a concept which is applicable only to first and second-level employees in the civil service-but to the rank to which they are appointed by the President;

WHEREAS, in the case of Luis Mario M. General vs. Ramon S. Roco. (G.R. No. 143366 dated January 29, 2001), the Supreme Court ruled that two requisites must concur in order that an employee in the career executive service may attain security of tenure, to wit: a.) CES Eligibility; b.) Appointment to the appropriate CES rank;

WHEREAS, the above-stated rulings of the Supreme Court were based primarily on the policies, rules and regulations then of the CESB, which were quoted by the said court in the afore-cited cases;

WHEREAS, the above said policy set by the Board upon which the appropriate rank" ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of Roco vs. General was based has already been revised by the Board through CESB Resolution No. 455 s. 2002 which states, that a CESO is considered a permanent employee and, therefore, guaranteed security of tenure in the CES regardless of the CES position he/she occupies or the rank level to which he/she is appointed;

WHEREAS, Section 27, Chapter 5, Title I, Book V of Executive Order No. 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987 provides that a permanent status of appointment shall be issued only to a person who meets all the requirements for the positions to which he/she is being appointed, including the appropriate eligibility prescribed, in accordance with the provisions of law, rules and standards promulgated in pursuance thereof;

WHEREAS, the Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the government mandated to promote merit and fitness in the civil service, has made a pronouncement through its policies that those who meet the qualification standards established for the position such as education, experience, training, physical characteristics and personality traits required by the job, and most importantly the appropriate eligibility shall be appointed on a permanent status;

WHEREAS, in the interest of policy and program coordination, there is a need to harmonize the policies of the Board with that of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on security of tenure, the Career Executive Service (CES) being part of the third level which is the highest among the three (3) levels of positions in the career service governed by the Civil Service Commission;

WHEREAS, the Board, cognizant of the need for consistency in the policy on security of tenure in the civil service, decided to revise the existing policy to conform with the Civil Service Commission criteria on permanent appointment, thus, setting CES Eligibility as an essential component of security of tenure in the CES;

NOW THEREFORE, foregoing premises considered, the Board **RESOLVES** as it is hereby **RESOLVED** to revise the policy on security of tenure in the Career Executive Service (CES) in conformity with the pertinent policies of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for third level qualified incumbents. Henceforth, attainment of CES Eligibility by an incumbent of a CES position is enough to enjoy security of tenure in the CES provided he or she has met the other basic requirements of the position established in the qualification standards set or approved by the Civil Service Commission based on the recommendation of the Department or Agency concerned.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that notwithstanding the permanent status of appointment of a third level official, he/she is covered by the mobility principle enshrined under Article IV, Part III of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as approved by Presidential Decree No. 1, as amended dated September 24, 1972, quoted herein as follows:

"e. Assignments, Reassignments and Transfers.

xxx xxx xxx

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding members of the Career Executive Service may be reassigned or transferred from one position to another; provided that such reassignment or transfer is made in the interest of public service and involves no reduction in rank or salary; provided, further, that no member shall be reassigned or transferred oftener than every two years; xxx."

RESOLVED FURTHERMORE, that to ensure compliance to the above-quoted mobility principle, reassignment or transfer shall be effected only upon availability of the corresponding position, it being understood that a "floating" status is not within the contemplation of this principle. Assignment to a CESO pool shall not be considered on a floating status.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the following provisions shall be taken as part and parcel of this resolution:

a.) If any provision or part of this resolution shall be held to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall be given full force and effect as if the part held invalid had not been included therein.

b.) All existing CESB rules and regulations, circulars and memoranda, which are inconsistent with this resolution are hereby repealed or amended accordingly, as the case may be.

c.) This resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED, this 10th day of August 2004 in Quezon City, Philippines.

KARINA CONSTANTINO-DAVID
Chairperson

RAMON F. NIEVA
Vice Chairman

ABSENT
MA. CONCEPCION P. ALFILER
Member

FERDINAND B. CUI
Member

GODOFREDO C. DE GUZMAN
Member

ABSENT
BOBBY V. DUMLAO
Member

EDUARDO T. GONZALES
Member

CARINA S. VALERA
Member

Attested by:

BETTINA MARGARITA LAYUGAN
Acting Board Secretary

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) invites all interested Deep Well Drillers to register for eligibility and to bid for the "Drilling and Installation of Communal Wells" at the Suburban Housing Project, in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Eligibility requirements may be obtained from the Technical Services Group, 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, with telephone nos. 895-9015 to 16 and fax no. 897-4737, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Scope of Work	Drilling and Installation of 58 Communal Wells (Hand Pump type)
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php1,624,000.00 (sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of HGC)
Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Bid documents	September 20-23, 2004
Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements	September 23, 2004
Issuance of Notice of Eligible Bidders	October 7-8, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	October 27, 2004
Opening of bids	November 08, 2004

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of HGC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any effect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to HGC. HGC likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **ARTHUR G. TAN**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 10 & 17 2004)

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"Mommy, we love you so much,
we'll miss you but we will never forget you"

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Wife of the late Luis Co Chi Kiat)

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 14, 2004 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved ***children*****:** Andy (†) & Helen, William & Bethy Syhau, William & Belen Wong, Luis Jr. & Tessie, Lucio & Susan, Lino (†) & Melinda, Alex & Benita Chua, Lorenzo & Fe; ***grandchildren*****:** Jennifer, Edgar, Sherwin, Sheryll, Cinderella & Patrick, Hudson, Joyce & Dickson, Mark, Aimee, Aline, Neil, Vincent, Pamela, Camille, Katrina, Beverly, Charmaine, Nikki, Robin, Edward (†), Benedick, Kenneth, Share, Michelle, Lino Jr., Gemalin; ***greatgrandchild*****:** Chris Daniel; brother, in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **Chapel 2 (*new bldg.*), La Funeraria Paz**, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Chinese Cemetery on Monday, September 20 at 8:00 a.m.

*In lieu of flowers, donations to **Luis Co Chi Kiat Foundation** will be greatly appreciated.*

PMA Class '64 announces
the untimely demise of:

P/C SUPT. ENRIQUE A. PILAPIL (Ret.)

(November 25, 1938 – September 14, 2004)

His bereaved wife **Angelina**; children **Moy**, **Jing** and **Emil**, **Ming**; grandchildren **Mikki**, **Carlo**, **Kaela**, **Isa**, **Nico**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, classmates, and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola, Guadalupe, Makati, where necrological services will be held on September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Interment at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio will be on Sunday, September 19, 2004 at 12:00 noon.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

SALOME "LUMING" PAZ GUEVARA

(October 22, 1924 – September 15, 2004)

HER HUSBAND

JOSE "PEPE" GUEVARA

CHILDREN: **ELENITA, EMMA & CARLOS;**
IN-LAWS: **JIMMY, ANGELITO & CORA;**
GRANDCHILDREN: **CHESTER, GIA, MELANIE, ERVIN, CARLO, CHRISTIAN, AIMEE;**
GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER: **ANGEL**
request for your most gracious prayers.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in San Diego St., Malanday, Marikina City.

Interment is scheduled on Saturday, 18th of September, 2004 at the Aglipay Cemetery Concepcion Uno after the 2 p.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He makes me lie down
in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul.
Psalm 23:1-3

GEN. PAULINO E. SANCHEZ

PC (Ret.)
PMA CLASS '43

Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife Leah on September 15, 2004 at the age of 86.

His children **Willem** and **Grace**, **Dennis** and **Alice**, **Len**, **Bambu** and **Nene**, **Cha** and **Mabel**, **Tattu** and **Annie**, **Nenette** and **Julius**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces thank the Lord Almighty for the many years of happiness that he shared with them.

His remains lie in state at the mortuary of St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday, September 19, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Filipino War Veterans Foundation Inc (FILVETS) would be appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

PureGold Duty Free, Inc.
Clark & Subic

PureGold Price Club, Inc.
Shaw, Tayuman, Parañaque,
Dau, Valenzuela, Las Piñas,
Makati, Cubao & Imus

Extend their deepest sympathies
and condolences to the family, relatives
and friends of

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Mother of its Chairman Lucio L. Co)

who peacefully passed away
in the Grace of our Lord
on September 14, 2004 at the age of 81.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2,
New Building, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

PureGold Finance, Inc.
PureGold Properties, Inc.

Express their deep sorrow
and their sincerest condolences
to the family of

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Mother of its Chairman Lucio L. Co)

who peacefully joined her Creator
on September 14, 2004.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2,
New Building, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

"Yes, though I walk through the valley of the
shadows of death, I will fear no harm; for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

ALCORN
GOLD RESOURCES CORPORATION

With its deepest sympathy
offers its condolences to the family of

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Mother of its Director Lucio L. Co)

who peacefully joined her Creator
on September 14, 2004.

Her remains lie in state
at Chapel 2, New Building,
La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

FONTANA
LEISURE PARKS

Fontana Development Corp.
Fontana Resort & Country Club

Express their deep sorrow and their
sincerest condolences
to the family of

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Mother of its Chairman Lucio L. Co)

who peacefully joined her Creator
on September 14, 2004.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2,
New Building, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

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DEBT SERVICING

BOP deficit hit $127M in Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES paid out more dollars than what it received, leading to a balance of payments deficit in August of $127 million.

This was the third straight month that the country incurred a deficit, mainly due to debt servicing, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP report showed that the BOP hit a shortfall of $127 million in August, bringing the eight-month deficit to $222 million.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Its major components are current account and capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services, as well as transfers.

The capital and financial account, on the other hand, records loan transactions, investment flows, and short-term capital.

Imports and offshore investments contribute to a deficit, while exports and inward remittances lead to a surplus.

In the eight-month period, import and debt servicing costs outpaced exports and remittances, thus, led to a deficit.

BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo, however, said the August BOP was an improvement from the $163-million deficit posted in July and the $412 million recorded in the same month last year.

The January-August shortfall of $222 million was also much lower than the $646-million deficit posted in the same period last year.

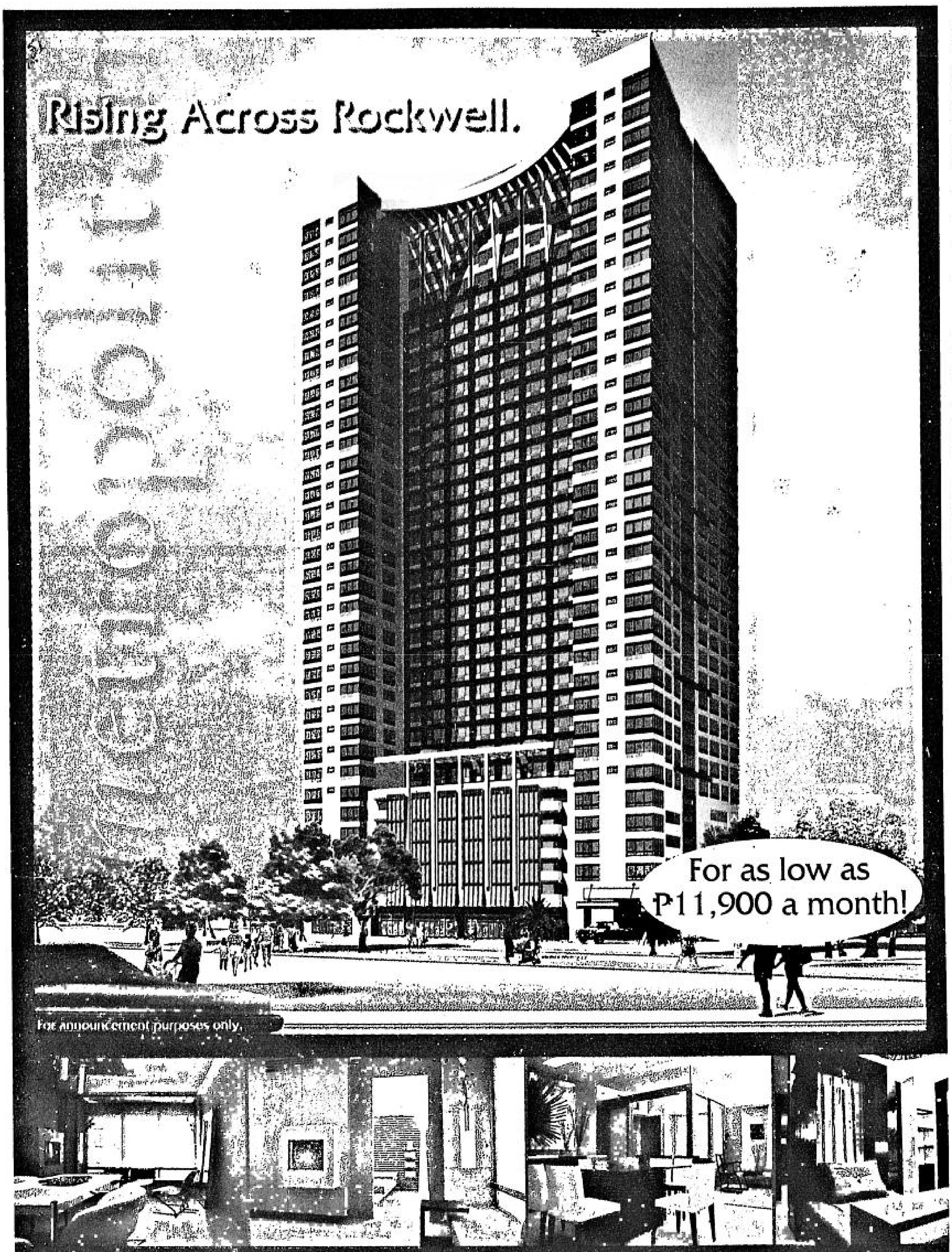
"It's just in line with our expectation of a $505-million deficit this year," Guinigundo said.

The BSP earlier scaled down its BOP target deficit this year from $660 million, due to improved export earnings.

But next year, Guinigundo said there should be a turnaround in the BOP performance, due to higher exports and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

"It's still possible that the BOP will improve later this year, but the big improvement is expected next year," he said.

The BSP expects to chalk up a BOP surplus of $500 million next year.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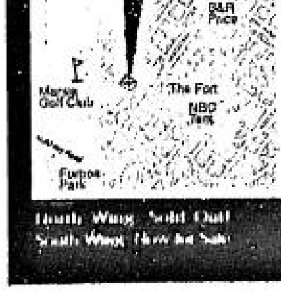

North Wing: Sold Out
South Wing: Now for Sale

Another project of
EDGE

DBM also to blame for NFA woes

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EMPLOYEES union of the National Food Authority yesterday said the Department of Budget and Management was partly to blame for the agency's financial losses.

According to NFA Employees Union president Roman Sanchez, the DBM's delayed remittance of the P900-million government subsidy for the buying of palay (unmilled rice) from farmers forced the NFA to turn to commercial banks that charged higher interest rates.

Another factor that led to NFA's financial woes was the 50 percent duty on rice imports.

Since the NFA was created 32 years ago, it was only in 2002 that it was required to pay import duties.

"As a government-owned corporation we have been exempted from paying taxes for the last three decades. Now we have to pay for tariffs ... This year, we imported close to 900,000 metric tons of rice," added Sanchez.

Sanchez urged the DBM to look into the higher wages and streamline the top heavy bureaucracy, instead of always hitting on the rank-and-file employees, who comprise the backbone of the agency.

"The NFA needs a clearer and more definite mandate that would guide us in streamlining our operations," said NFA Deputy Administrator and officer-in-charge Gregorio Tan in a separate interview.

Created through Presidential Decree No. 4, the state-owned trading NFA is in charge of importing rice to cover the shortfall in domestic production.

"The NFA is not really designed to make money for the national government. We buy palay (unmilled rice) from the farmers at a higher, subsidized price and at the same time sell them at a lower cost to consumers," explained Tan.

Deregulation policy stays, CICT head says

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO administration yesterday said it would continue to pursue the deregulation of the telecommunications sector despite recent calls from a prominent telecom executive to consider going back to regulation.

"We would continue to open up the telecom sector to competition," said Virgilio Peña, chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology or CICT.

The CICT is tasked to develop the country's information technology sector.

The National Telecommunications Commission and the Philippine Postal Corp. were transferred from the Department of Transportation and Communication to the CICT.

Manuel Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., earlier urged the government to reconsider its liberalization policy in favor of a regulated and managed yet efficient economy like Hong Kong and Singapore.

Pangilinan said the deregulation of the telecom industry in the early '90s through a policy called the service area scheme was a failure, in the sense that only giants like PLDT and Globe Telecom Inc. of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom survived it.

LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

OKS • TUESDAY **FITNESS** • WEDNESDAY **2BU** • THURSDAY **FOOD** • FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

AN ECRU cotton hand knit cardigan and ecru guipure strapless dress at the showing of the Michael Kors spring 2005 line in NY AP

It's Greek chic for Michael Kors

NEW YORK—When most fashion designers talk about Greek goddesses, they mean the ancient kind who wore draped column gowns and braided belts. Not Michael Kors.

The "Greek chic" collection Kors previewed at New York Fashion Week was for a modern goddess, one of the slim, tanned variety who enjoys spending her days on the beaches of the island of Santorini and late nights in Mykonos.

Kors turned his runway into a playground for the jet-setter who might need a tiger-print georgette short caftan with turquoise trim to wear over her tiger bikini.

For lunch at a seaside café, she could choose from an ocean-blue silk georgette batik peasant blouse with linen pants embroidered at the ankle, or an off-the-shoulder peasant dress with tiers of ruffles from the waist down.

And this woman needs evening clothes, too: a white hand-embroidered dance dress with embedded crystals or a white chiffon jersey gown with colored crystals covering

IT'S GREEK/ C2

WHITE cotton lace santorini dress REUTERS

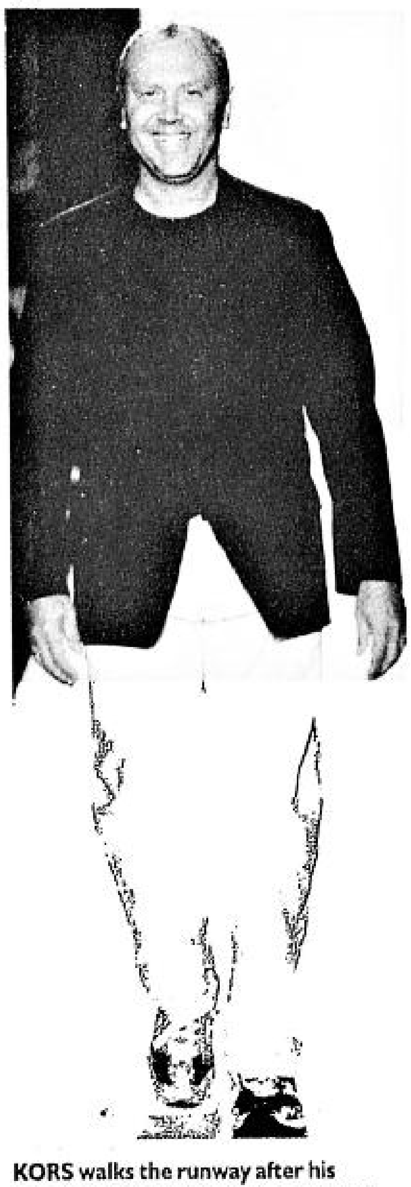
Staying the Kors

By Kitty Go
Contributor

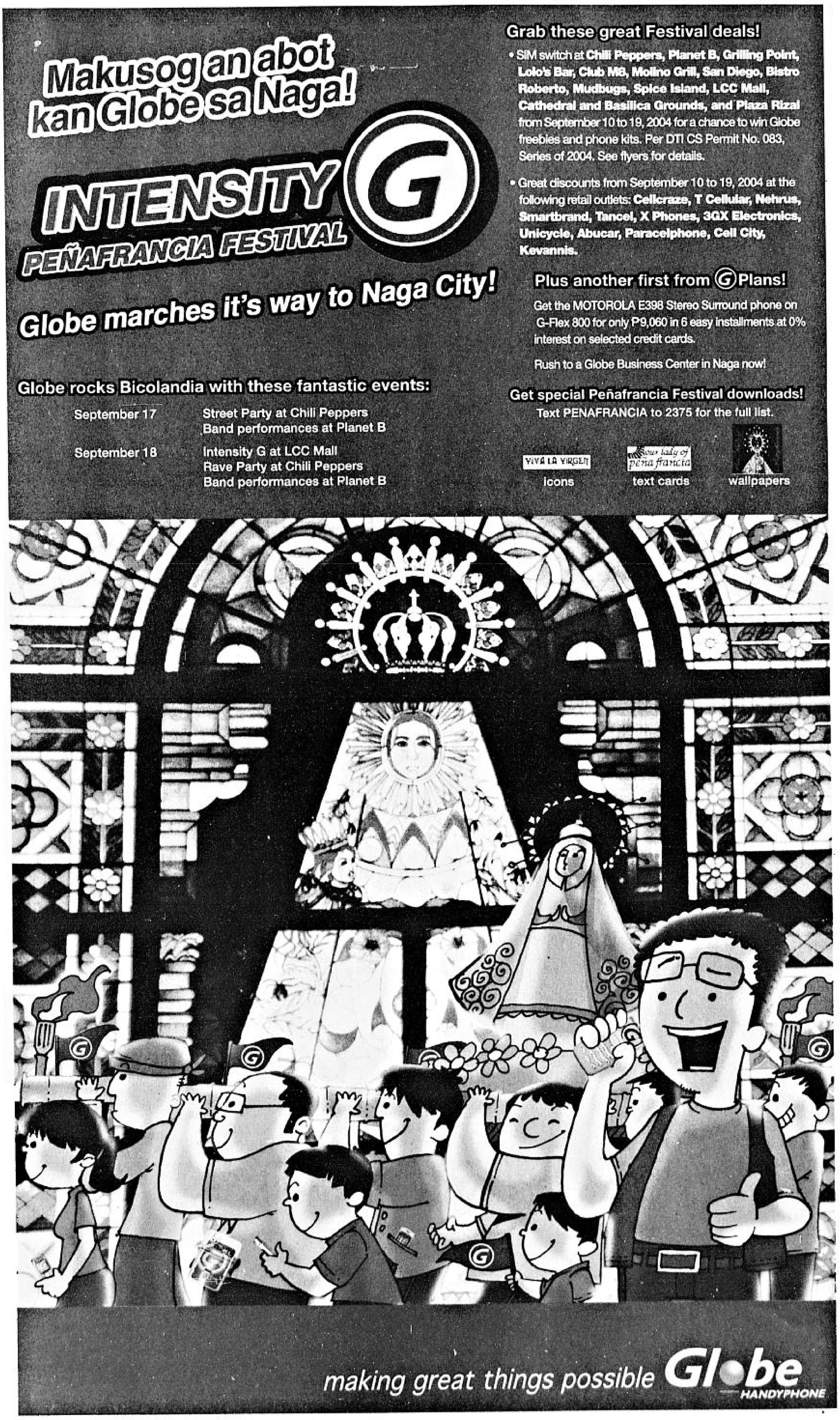
THIS season heralds the Michael Kors collection at Joyce in Hong Kong. The Fall/Winter 2004 collection, inspired by the look of '60s and '70s photos by celebrity paparazzo Ron Galella, epitomizes "luxurious boho-style."

Galella was probably the first photographer who became as famous as the

STAYING/C2



KORS walks the runway after his Olympus Fashion Week show in **NYC.** AFP



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Band performances at Planet B

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- Great discounts from September 10 to 19, 2004 at the following retail outlets: **Cellcraze, T Cellular, Nehrus, Smartbrand, Tancel, X Phones, 3GX Electronics, Unicycle, Abucar, Paracelphone, Cell City, Kevannis.**

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TIGER silk georgette halter dress AP

TIGER Duchesse Reefer REUTERS

TIGER ring maillot REUTERS

AQUA floral hand embroidered linen djellaba (top left) REUTERS

It's Greek chic for Michael Kors

MICHAEL Kors AFP

From page C1

the bikini-style top and waistband, perhaps?

Kors described the collection as "sportswear with a romantic sense of glamour... delicate embroideries and lavish embellishments with a relaxed attitude."

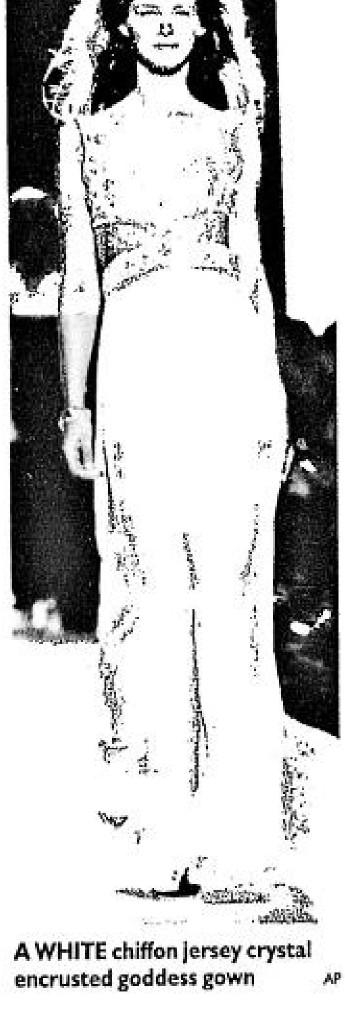
An extremely glamorous actress—Elizabeth Taylor—was his muse for spring. There even was a "Liz" dress, a white jersey short dress with a string of crystals and turquoise around the empire waist.

"Michael Kors' collection was brash... bold, and as a designer, he puts out (on the runway) what he believes in without any restraint, from sexy and beaded to exotic and animal prints to colorful and classic.... And he thinks about it from head to toe," said Tom Julian, a trend analyst for ad agency Fallon Worldwide and commentator for the fashion Website Main Floor. *AP*

COBALT hand painted python jacket and matching bikini with white cotton jeans AP

BLACK piped cotton jacket with a black and white grosgrain skirt REUTERS

AQUA cashmere cardigan with aqua cashmere pullover and aqua organza ruffled skirt REUTERS



A WHITE chiffon jersey crystal encrusted goddess gown AP

Staying the Kors

From page C1

celebrities he photographed. He was also known to stalk them such as what he did with Jackie O, and ended up being slapped with a restraining order. He was no ordinary paparazzo but the one who captured celebrities at their most glamorous in action. Kors brings that same jet-setting glamour and fluid pace to this fall's collection.

According to Adrienne Ma, managing director of Joyce, most of the specialty retailer's American designers such as Marc Jacobs, Anna Sui, Diane von Furstenburg and Rick Owens are contemporary casual while Michael Kors and this fall's re-launch of the Donna Karan Collection establishes an up-market niche for American designers at Joyce.

Since his first line launched in 1981 at Saks Fifth Avenue and Bergdorf Goodman in New York, Kors has never veered from his marketing position of chic, luxurious American sportswear. His brand of fashion made it to the silver screen, worn by Renee Russo, for the remake of "The Thomas Crown Affair."

This Fall's relaxed but polished look is dominated by soft suedes and fringes, multi-ply cashmeres and fur pieces (the shrug is very big) worn with sheer dresses in muted paisley prints and tight jeans and corduroys in denim, black, tobacco and chocolate brown.

Short skirts and boots, sheer dresses, tiny jackets, matte jersey and slinky gowns with fur boas reminiscent of Jean Harlow, give the impression that the Michael Kors woman is no ordinary jetsetter but one who has a private plane and takes limos, one who never has to feel the chill of winter or get her boots wet in the snow. The small bags and shrunken furs only further the message that this is one chick who doesn't need a coat because there's a car or a plane waiting and doesn't carry luggage because there's a home waiting on either end of the journey.

ACRYLIC nylon wool/lycra and mohaire nylon long-sleeved cowl-neck sweater and solid stretch, faux suede long-sleeved jacket

PRINTED georgette long-sleeved classic-fit blouse and novelty tweed long-sleeved jacket

LONG-SLEEVED V-neck sweater with scarf and novelty tweed long-sleeved jacket

Vintage luxury

LIZ Claiborne's contribution to Fall fashion this year are tweed jackets, fur accents, knee-length skirts and sweater jackets—vintage and luxury in one glamorous mix.

The accent is on old school, with vintage suits, jackets, shoes and accents tailored to a new point of view. The fabrics and textures—tweeds, suedes and knits, silks and antiqued florals—add sensuous touches in shades of deep green, brown and wine set off by elegant cream and white. Faux fur—leopard, fox and sable find their way to collars and accessories.

Liz Claiborne's recommendations this season include sweater jackets or cardigans in different yarns, textures and silhouettes, all hand-knit, in tweed bouclé and herringbone.

Inside, you can have any of a variety of vintage shirts in striped jacquard, floral sateen dobby or pointed striped dobby. Round it off with around-the-knee-length skirts and slim-leg pants for that smart, cosmopolitan look.

Liz Claiborne is available in Missy, Petite and Woman on the 2/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, and 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

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Shangri-La Plaza

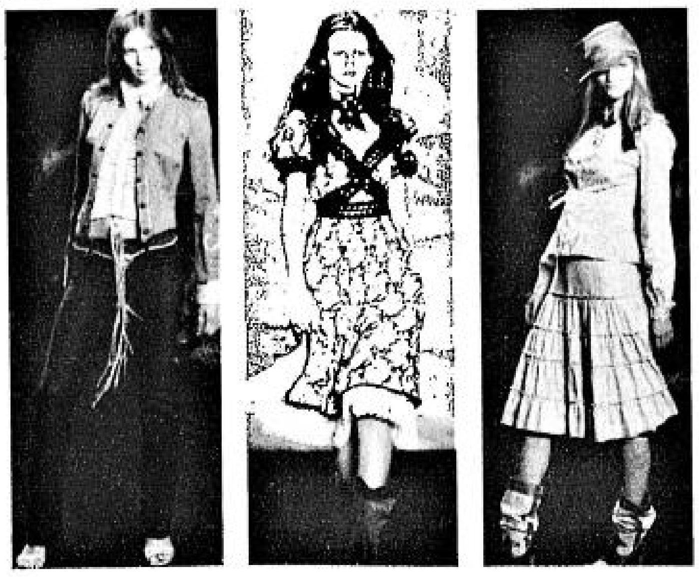
SHANG CINEPLEX

Women designing for women in New York Fashion Week

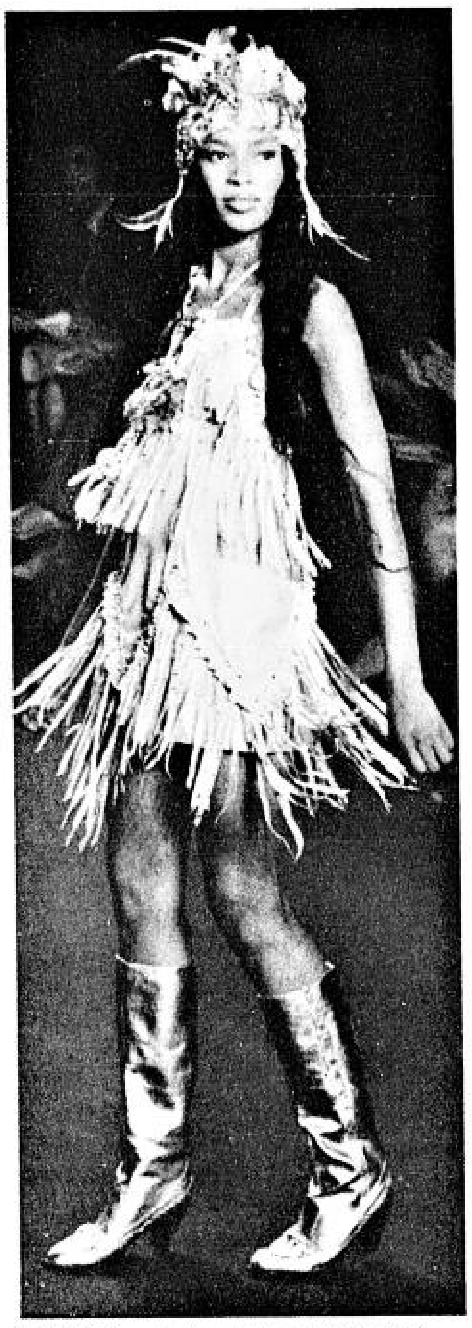
Anna Sui

Anna Sui put on a Wild West show that blended her "Rhinestone Cowgirl" outfits with American Indian touches. Naomi Campbell in a silver leather Pocahontas dress, which closed the show, drew applause.

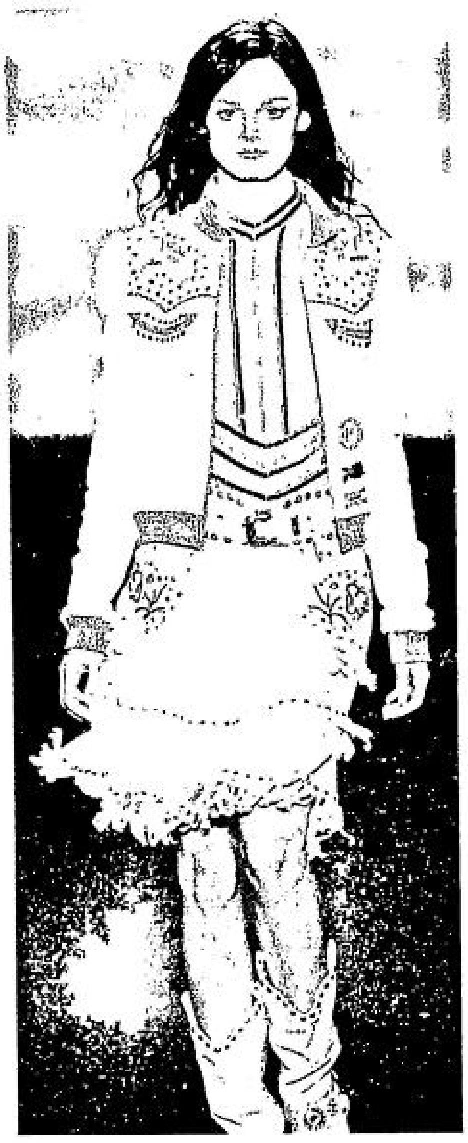
The white jackets covered with colored rhinestones and red-rose appliques and matching white fringe skirts likely won't coordinate well with what most women have in their closets, but several outfits, including a butter-colored chamois ruffled jacket with a white eyelet tiered skirt and an orange plaid taffeta bustier with a coordinating prairie skirt, were wearable—and downright cute. *AP*



(FROM LEFT) Khaki denim soldier jacket with blue jeans; cream floral medallion dress with white eyelet petticoat; pink sprigs sateen jacket with tweed petticoat PHOTOS: REUTER



NAOMI Campbell models a silver leather fringe dress with rhinestones. REUTERS



WHITE rhinestone cowboy jersey jacket with blue trim and a matching skirt are modeled with a woven stripe gauze blouse. AFP

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Who was at the NY Fash

WINONA Ryder at the Marc Jacobs show

NATALIE Portman and Mandy Moore at the Marc Jacobs show

MARY-KATE and Ashley Olsen at the Marc Jacobs show

TENNIS player Serena Williams and actresses Hilary Swank and Elizabeth H attend the Calvin Klein show. PHOT

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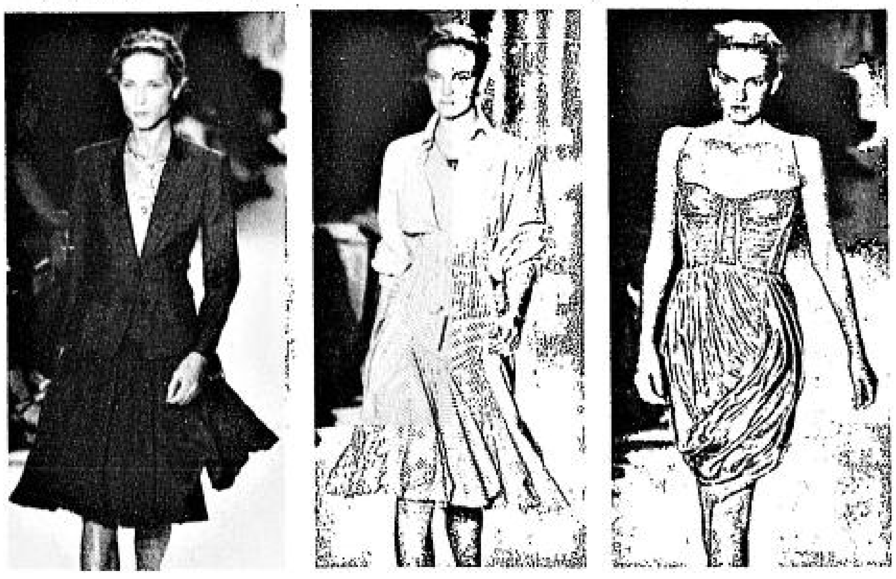
Donna Karan

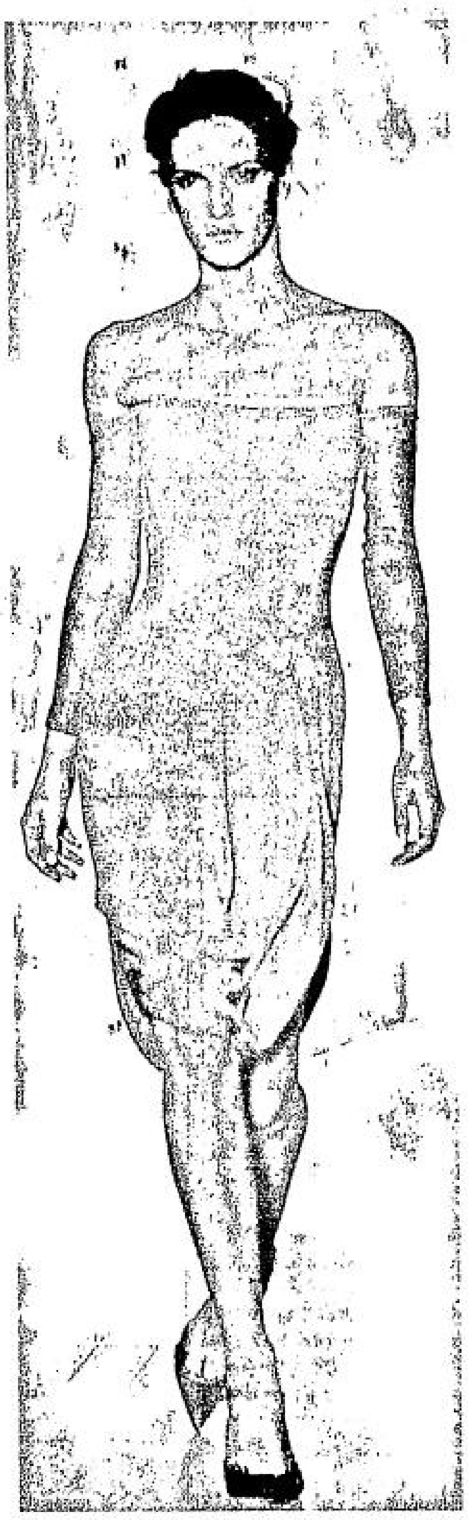
A fuchsia lacquered paper . leather parachute jacket, worn with a fuchsia boned net bustier and stretch silk jersey loop skirt, along with the occasional bright cobalt or indigo outfit, broke up the parade of mostly steel-colored looks at Karan's show.

Many of Karan's dresses were adorned with lace-up backs, steel metallic sequins, mesh and netting. A group of gowns made of cotton stretch sweat shirt jersey featured an abstract metallic embroidery with a space-age feel.

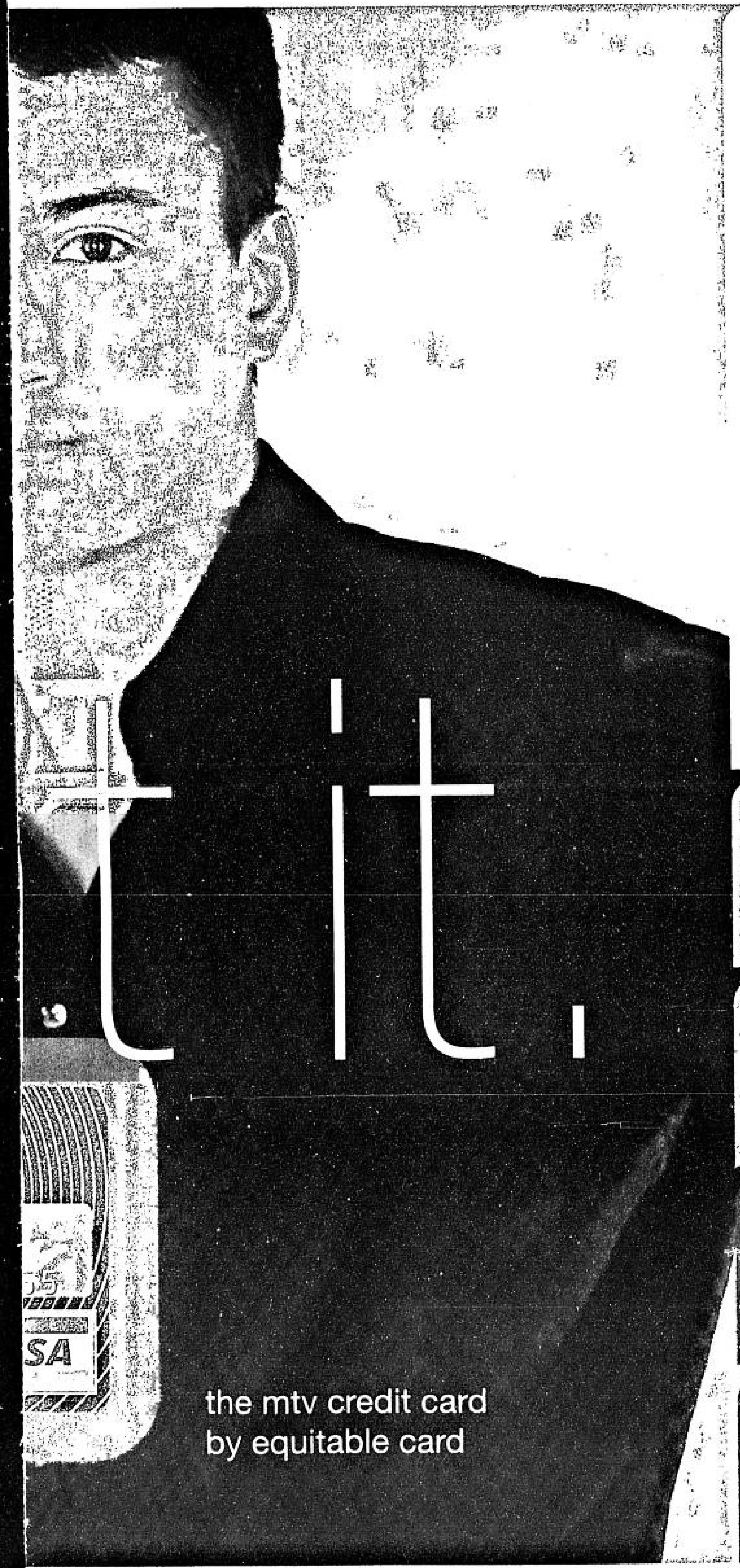
"I thought it was interesting, there were a lot of elements on every garment," said Sally Singer, Vogue's fashion news and features editor. "Every outfit had a different back and front, which is not typical of an American catwalk." *AP*



(FROM LEFT) Mohair laced-back molded jacket and a mohair turbine pleated skirt; cotton bonded bodiced shirt with a cotton balloon skirt; stretch chiffon jersey and net boned bodice dress PHOTOS: REUTERS



FUCHSIA stretch chiffon jersey and net off-the-shoulder boned bodice dress AP



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STRETCH silk dupioni laced-back evening dress REUTERS

ion Week?

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MILLA Jovovich, Marissa Berenson and Bernardette Peters at the Donna Karan show

JACK Nicholson and designer Jennifer Nicholson attend her Spring 2005 show.

KATE Hudson and Liv Tyler at the Marc Jacobs show

JENNIFER Lopez at the Marc Jacobs show

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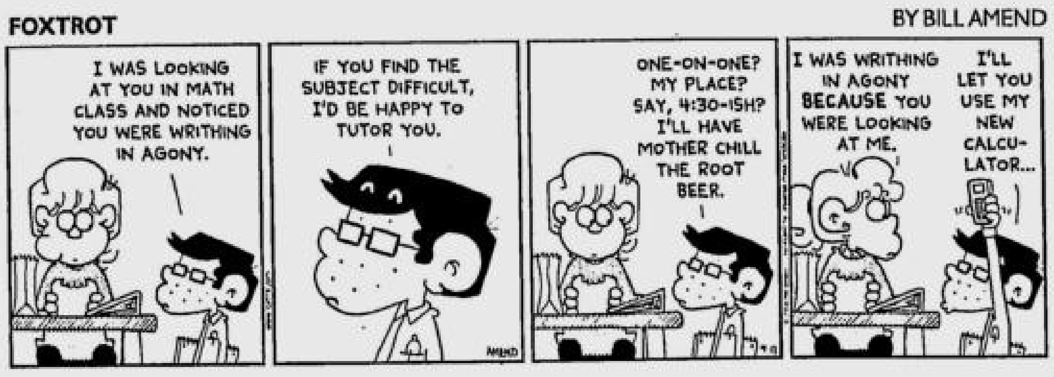
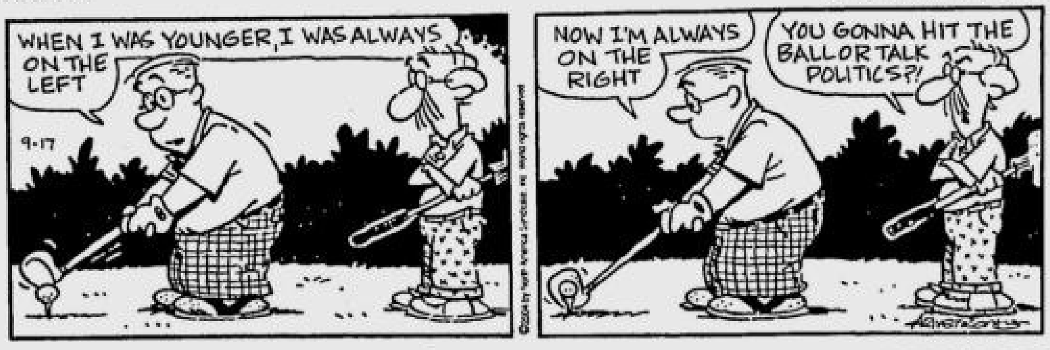
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I WAS LOOKING AT YOU IN MATH CLASS AND NOTICED YOU WERE WRITHING IN AGONY.
IF YOU FIND THE SUBJECT DIFFICULT, I'D BE HAPPY TO TUTOR YOU.
ONE-ON-ONE? MY PLACE? SAY, 4:30-ISH? I'LL HAVE MOTHER CHILL THE ROOT BEER.
I WAS WRITHING IN AGONY BECAUSE YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME.
I'LL LET YOU USE MY NEW CALCULATOR...
AMEND

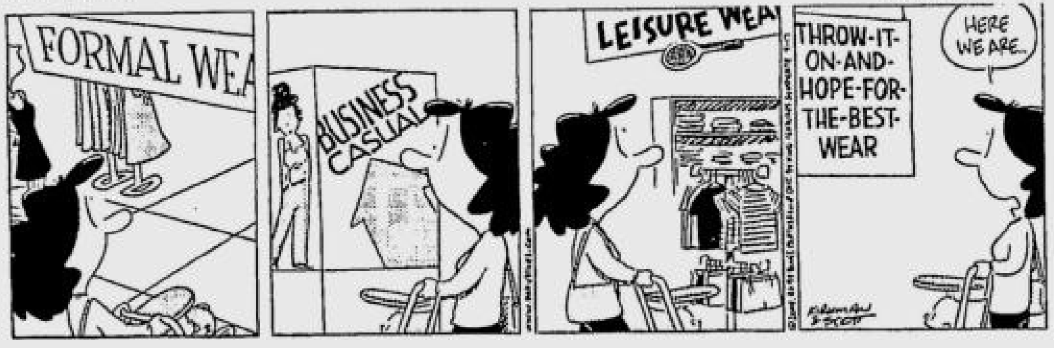
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WAS ALWAYS ON THE LEFT
9-17
NOW I'M ALWAYS ON THE RIGHT
YOU GONNA HIT THE BALL OR TALK POLITICS?!

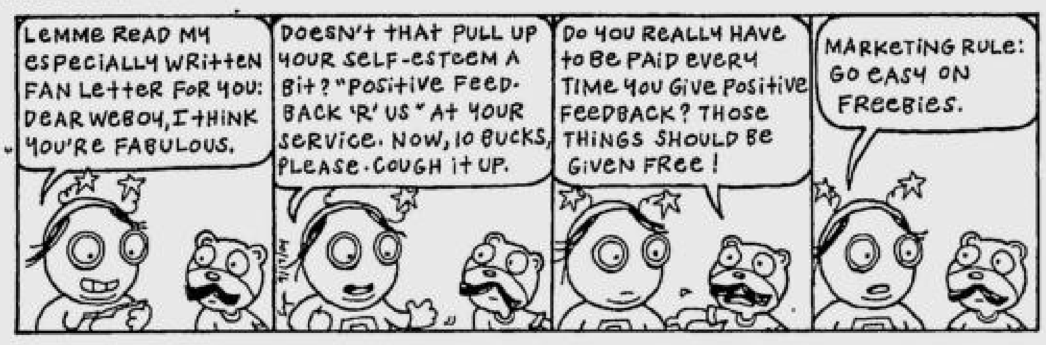
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FORMAL WEA
BUSINESS CASUAL
LEISURE WEA
THROW-IT-ON-AND-HOPE-FOR-THE-BEST-WEAR
HERE WE ARE...

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LEMME READ MY ESPECIALLY WRITTEN FAN LETTER FOR YOU: DEAR WEBOY, I THINK YOU'RE FABULOUS.
DOESN'T THAT PULL UP YOUR SELF-ESTEEM A BIT? "POSITIVE FEEDBACK 'R' US" AT YOUR SERVICE. NOW, 10 BUCKS, PLEASE. COUGH IT UP.
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE PAID EVERY TIME YOU GIVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK? THOSE THINGS SHOULD BE GIVEN FREE!
MARKETING RULE: GO EASY ON FREEBIES.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're fearless, persistent and determined. Once you have established your objective, you will doggedly pursue it. You're organized, tough and committed. You have a dry sense of humor, and you enjoy adventure. Most of all, you value tradition. The year ahead holds major changes for you, as eventful as in 1995-96.

Birthdate of: Ken Kesey, writer; Hank Williams, singer; Anne Bancroft, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might develop a serious crush on someone . It's easy to fall in love right now. However, this is a kind of Hollywood love based on dreams and illusions.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be careful when shopping for home, family and real estate today. You could go overboard buying something indulgent or artistic. You're feeling a little rash right now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel very warm toward everyone today and tomorrow. Nevertheless, you could be kidding yourself about something. Maybe you can't see the forest because of the trees.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Take caution against extravagant spending today! You feel unusually indulgent with yourself and loved ones. Similarly, be careful about financial deals .

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be careful of partnerships and close friendships now. Your unrealistic ideals could cause you to be disappointed. Don't put someone on a pedestal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Double-check all promises made to you by co-workers today. Although people are well-meaning, they might not have all the facts. (In fact, they could be out to lunch!)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): New friendships could appear to be other than what they really are. It's very easy to fool yourself today. Wishful thinking doesn't necessarily make it so!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might be very attracted to your boss or someone in a position of authority today. This person seems to be gorgeous, charming and seductive. But, is he or she really?

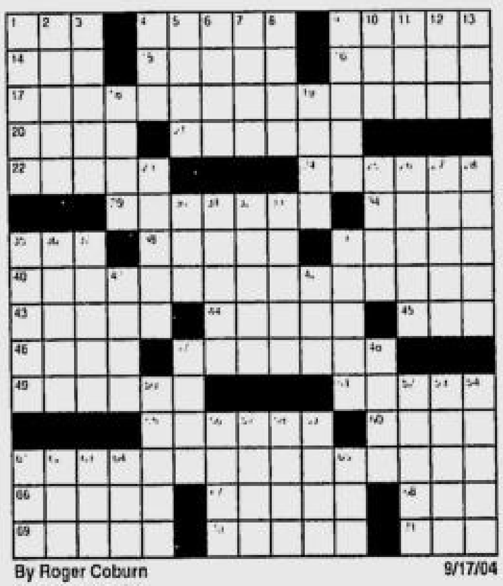
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Matters connected with travel, publishing, education, medicine and the law need to be questioned. Things could appear to be more ideal than they really are. Be careful what you count on!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't give away the farm today. You could go overboard sharing something with others. (You could also go overboard going into debt. Be careful!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Friends could become lovers today. Just enjoy whatever beautiful, romantic experience comes your way. But don't put too many demands or expectations on whatever happens.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In large measure, your disappointment with a co-worker could be because of unrealistic expectations. Think about this. We all put our pants on one leg at a time. Don't be betrayed by your sense of idealism.

DAILY CROSSWORD



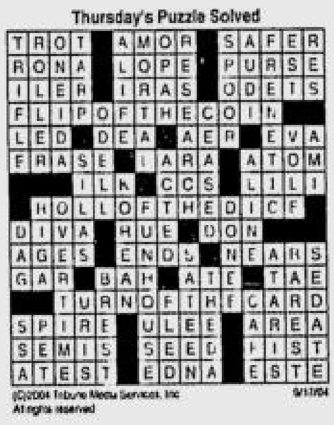
By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

9/17/04

ACROSS
1 Courtroom railing
4 Medley meals
9 Getz and Kenton
14 Pub preference
15 Embroidery loop
16 Former capital of Scotland
17 Start of a quip
20 Had the answer
21 Metal mender
22 Rainwater conduit
24 Thingamajig
29 Passes gossip
34 Hidden explosive
35 Picnic visitor
38 __ Hawkins Day
39 Distilled mash
40 More of quip
43 Egghead
44 Boredom
45 Preferred one
46 "Baseball Tonight" stn.
47 Kindergarten colors
49 Replace a stopper
51 Fellas
55 Eyed lecherously
60 Flynn Boyle of "The Practice"
61 End of quip
66 TV studio sign
67 Perceptive
68 NASA outpost
69 Singer Eydie
70 Was skittish
71 Greek letter

DOWN
1 Pitcher's miscues
2 Without help
3 Stitch anew
4 Health haven
5 Metal containers
6 Back talk?
7 Something to gather?
8 Framing upright
9 Nixon's Agnew
10 Hamilton's bill
11 Buchwald or Garfunkel
12 Ultimate degree
13 Female
18 Bedstand pitcher
19 Beatty film
23 Spruce juice
25 "Typee" sequel
26 Buttoned
27 Leg joint
28 Distributed hands
30 Soak up rays
31 Lawn tool
32 Jungle vine
33 Comic Bruce
35 Dark yellow
36 Old Scandinavian
37 Links obstacles
39 Contending
41 Square of three
42 Pair
47 Singer Laine
48 Stock Exchange directive
50 Actress Woodard
52 Rock bottom
53 Take-out item?
54 Go-ahead
56 Historic time periods
57 Rolling in dough
58 Ornamental case
59 Assignation
61 Cabin component
62 Lennon's Yoko
63 Rower s tool
64 Kipling book
65 Held first place

Thursday's Puzzle Solved


TROT AMOR SAFER
RONA LOPE PURSE
ILER IRAS ODETS
FLIPOFTHECOIN
LED DEA AER EVA
ERASE IARA ATOM
ILK CCS LILI
HOLLOFTHEDICE
DIVA HUE DON
AGES ENDS NEARS
GAR BAH ATE TAE
TURNOFTHECARD
SPIRE ULEE AREA
SEMIS SEED FIST
ATEST EDNA ESTE

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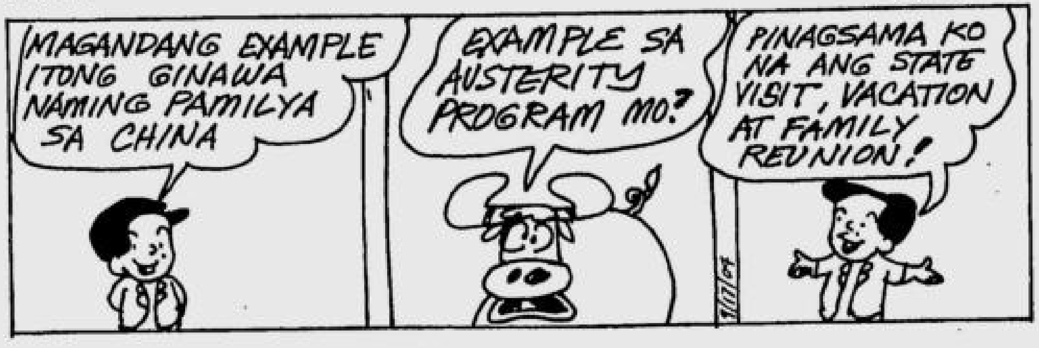
9/16/04

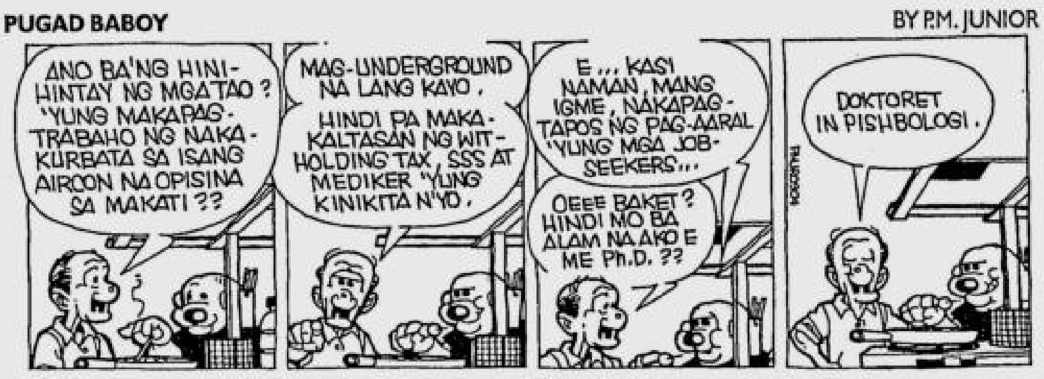
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAGANDANG EXAMPLE ITONG GINAWA NAMING PAMILYA SA CHINA
EXAMPLE SA AUSTERITY PROGRAM MO?
PINAGSAMA KO NA ANG STATE VISIT, VACATION AT FAMILY REUNION!
9/17/04

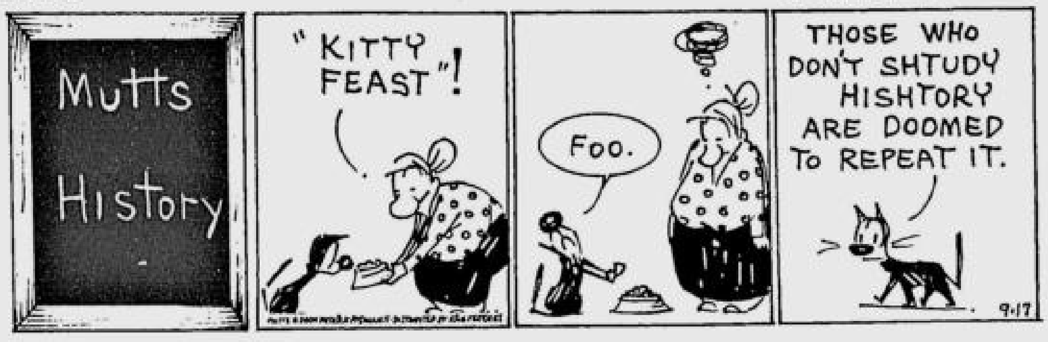
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO BA'NG HINIHINTAY NG MGA TAO? 'YUNG MAKAPAG-TRABAHO NG NAKA-KURBATA SA ISANG AIRCON NA OPISINA SA MAKATI ??
MAG-UNDERGROUND NA LANG KAYO.
HINDI PA MAKAKALTASAN NG WITHOLDING TAX, SSS AT MEDIKER 'YUNG KINIKITA N'YO.
E... KASI NAMAN, MANG IGME, NAKAPAG-TAPOS NG PAG-AARAL 'YUNG MGA JOB-SEEKERS...
OEEE BAKET? HINDI MO BA ALAM NA AKO E ME Ph.D. ??
DOKTORET IN PISHBOLOGI.

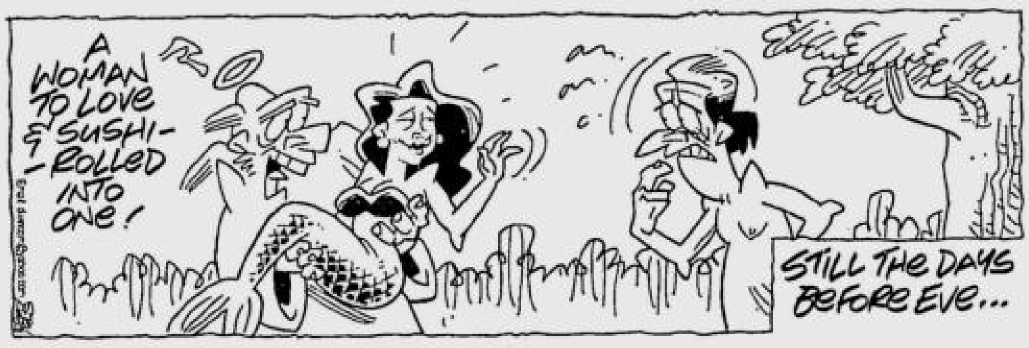
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Mutts
History
"KITTY FEAST"!
Foo.
THOSE WHO DON'T SHTUDY HISHTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT.
9-17

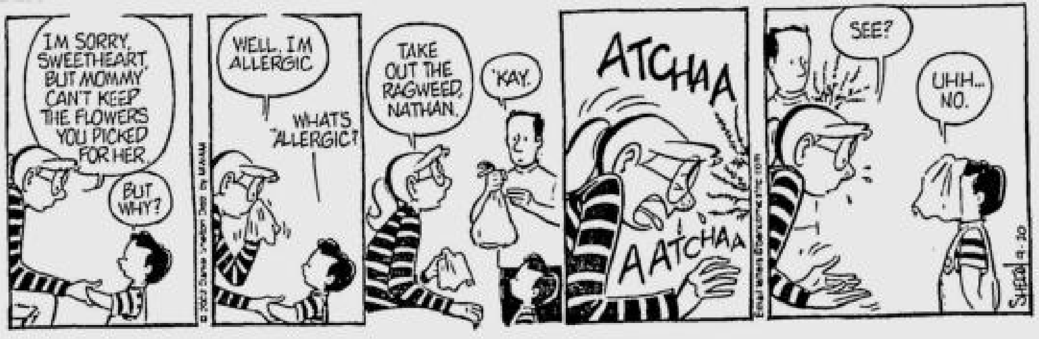
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


A WOMAN TO LOVE & SUSHI-ROLLED INTO ONE!
STILL THE DAYS BEFORE EVE...

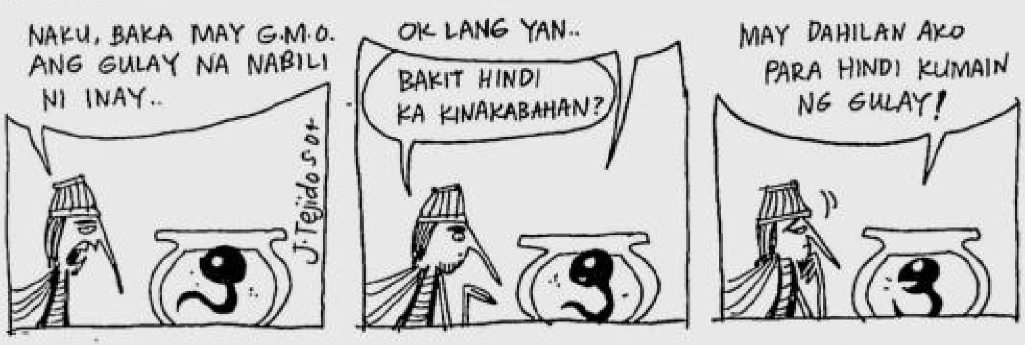
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SORRY, SWEETHEART, BUT MOMMY CAN'T KEEP THE FLOWERS YOU PICKED FOR HER.
BUT WHY?
WELL, I'M ALLERGIC.
WHAT'S "ALLERGIC"?
TAKE OUT THE RAGWEED, NATHAN.
'KAY.
ATCHAA
AATCHAA
SEE?
UHH... NO.

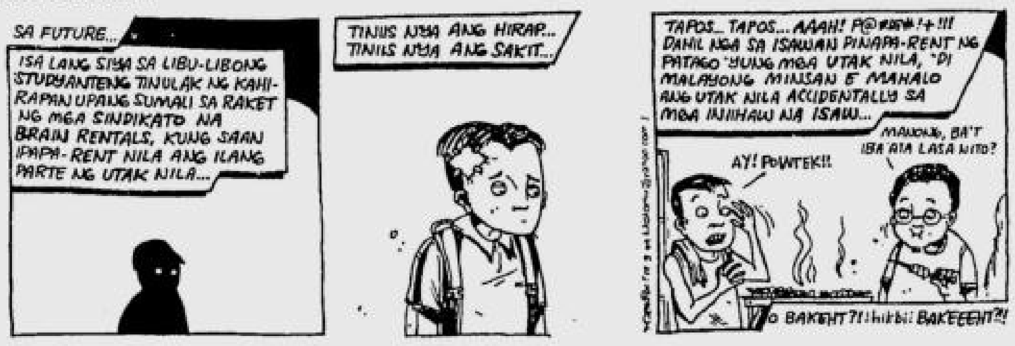
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, BAKA MAY G.M.O. ANG GULAY NA NABILI NI INAY..
J. Tejido s.o.t.
OK LANG YAN..
BAKIT HINDI KA KINAKABAHAN?
MAY DAHILAN AKO PARA HINDI KUMAIN NG GULAY!

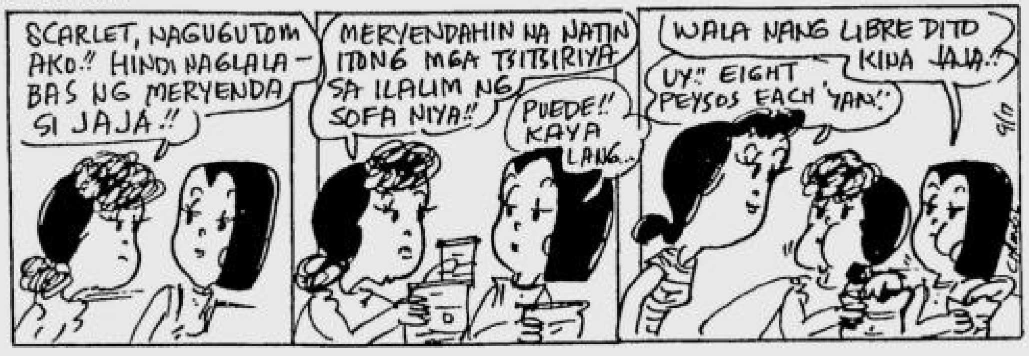
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA FUTURE...
ISA LANG SIYA SA LIBU-LIBONG STUDYANTENG TINULAK NG KAHIRAPAN UPANG SUMALI SA RAKET NG MGA SINDIKATO NA BRAIN RENTALS, KUNG SAAN IPAPA-RENT NILA ANG ILANG PARTE NG UTAK NILA...
TINIIS NIYA ANG HIRAP... TINIIS NIYA ANG SAKIT...
TAPOS... TAPOS... AAAH! P@#$%!+!!! DAHIL NGA SA ISAWAN PINAPA-RENT NG PATAGO 'YUNG MGA UTAK NILA, 'DI MALAYONG MINSAN E MAHALO ANG UTAK NILA ACCIDENTALLY SA MGA INIIHAW NA ISAW...
AY! PUWTEK!!
MANONG, BA'T IBA ATA LASA NITO?
O BAKEHT?! hihihi: BAKEEEHT?!

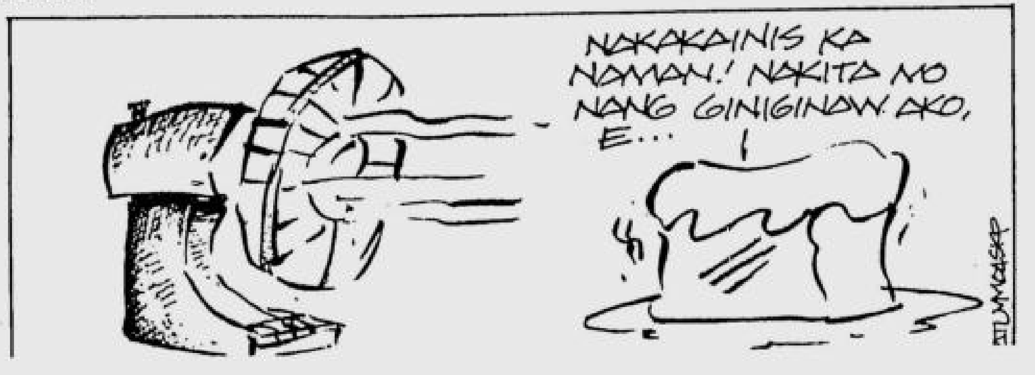
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, NAGUGUTOM AKO!! HINDI NAGLALABAS NG MERYENDA SI JAJA!!
MERYENDAHIN NA NATIN ITONG MGA TSITSIRIYA SA ILALIM NG SOFA NIYA!!
PUEDE!! KAYA LANG...
WALA NANG LIBRE DITO KINA JAJA!!
UY!! EIGHT PEYSOS EACH 'YAN!
9/17

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKAKAINIS KA NAMAN! NAKITA MO NANG GINIGINAW AKO, E...

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SEPTEMBER 17-30 2004

P28.00/kg **CABBAGE**
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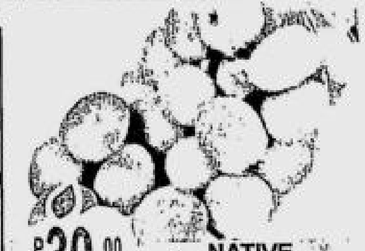
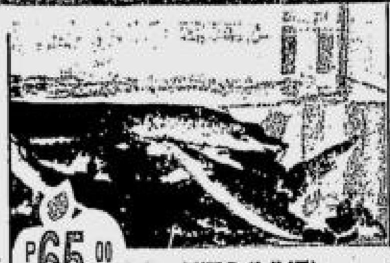
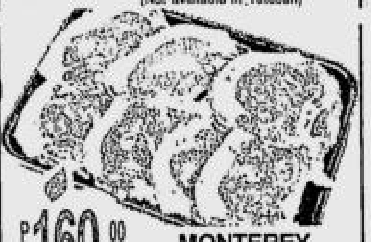

P30.00/kg **NATIVE TOMATO**
(Not available in Tutuban and Malabon)

P90.00/piece **POMELO**
(Not available in Tutuban)


P65.00/kg **HITO (LIVE)**
(Not available in Tutuban and Malabon)

P280.00/kg **MONTEREY**
Beef Stroganoff

P170.00/kg **MONTEREY**
Pork Sukiyaki Cut


P160.00/kg **MONTEREY**
Pork Chops,Barbeque

P139.00/pack **SWIFT**
Mighty Meaty Hotdog (Regular) 1kg

P102.00/pack **SWIFT**
Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdog (Regular) 1kg

P170.25/piece **EL FAVORITO**
Double Dutch (1/2Gal.)
(Not available in Tutuban, Metropolis, Los Baños, Target Mall & Eastwood)

P25.95/pack **EDEN**
Filled Cheese
200g

P40.85/piece **GARDENIA**
5 Grain Loaf
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400ml
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DEL MONTE
100% Pure Pineapple Juice 46oz.
P39.75 each

POKKA
Carrot Fruit Juice
240ml
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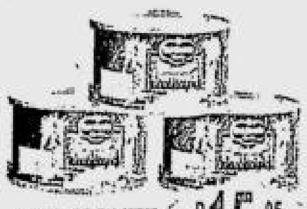
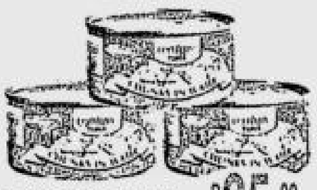
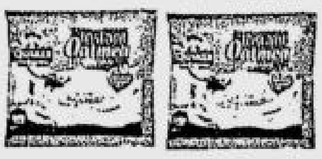
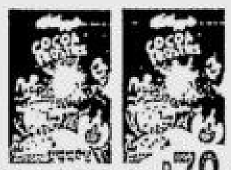

DEL MONTE
Fresh Cut Chunks Pineapple 234g
P15.95 each

CENTURY TUNA
Flakes in Vegetable Oil
180g
P23.00 each


CENTURY TUNA
Chunks in Water
184g
P25.00 each


QUAKER
Instant Oats (Singles) 35g
P6.75 each

KELLOGG'S
Frosties
300g
P103.00 each


KELLOGG'S
Cocoa Frosties
200g
P78.00 each

MURRAY
Sugar Free Choco Chips 155g
P72.50 each

KELLOGG'S
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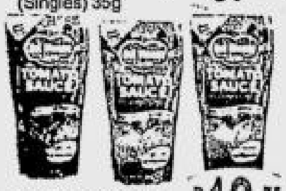
180g
P85.00 each

NACHO
Corn Chips (BBQ)
100g
P13.50 each


DEL MONTE
Tomato Sauce Filipino Style 250g
P12.75 each

CHEEZY
Corn Crunch
85g
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CLOVER CHIPS
Unique Corn Chips (Cheese) 85g
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ASTRING-O-SOL
Specialist
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ASTRING-O-SOL
Specialist
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SILKA
Green Papaya
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Alcohol Pack
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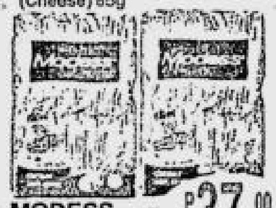
P46.00 each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Pink Passion
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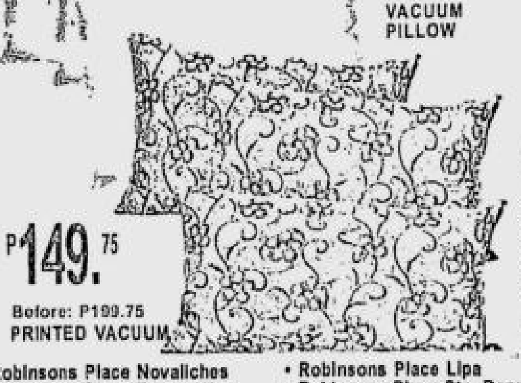
HOT AND COOL JUG (PN408)

P89.75 PLASTIC PITCHER (PN418)

P79.75 PLASTIC DRINKING BOTTLE (PN549/C)


P149.75
Before: P199.75
WHITE VACUUM PILLOW

P149.75
Before: P199.75
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Robinsons Supermarket
- Robinsons Galleria
- Robinsons Place Manila
- Robinsons Place Imus
- Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños
- Robinsons Place Angeles, Pampanga
- Tutuban Center
- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis

Big R Supercenter
- Robinsons Place Novaliches
- Robinsons Place Dasmariñas
- Robinsons Place Metro East
- Robinsons Place Cainta
- Robinsons Place Lipa
- Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa
- Starmills Pampanga
- Nepo Mall Dagupan

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT #2035 SERIES OF 2004

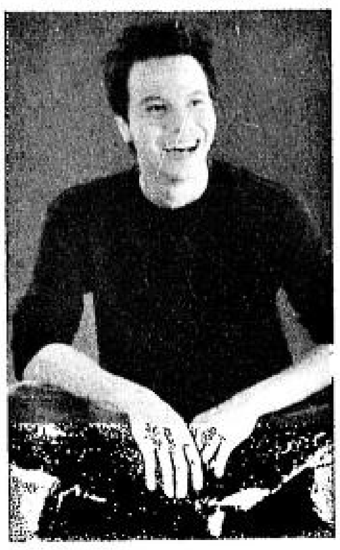
Everyday fashion must-haves

ROBINSONS Department Store recommends five closet "must-haves" from its RDS Private Labels:

- The dependable denims. A few dates, outings with friends and four years of college... You and your favorite pair of jeans have gone through so much together. Don't you think it's about time to get some more of them? Wear them with plain bright-colored blouse or under a pastel-colored polo and you're ready to go anywhere.
- Way-out white. Whether you're on your way to a badminton match or off to school for a long exam, white outfits always make you look chic and impeccable.
- Nice neutrals. If one of your on-the-job dilemmas is being caught between being overdressed and being dull, try wearing neutrals to the workplace. With a classic carry-all bag and heeled pumps to complete the look, you're on your way to impress.
- Cool khakis. Like your loyal denims, khaki pants, when paired with a turtleneck or long-sleeved shirt, make for dependable lifesavers.
- Super stripes and sweatshirts. For everyday activities like a group study or a drive around town, nothing beats round-neck sweatshirts or bright classic shirts.

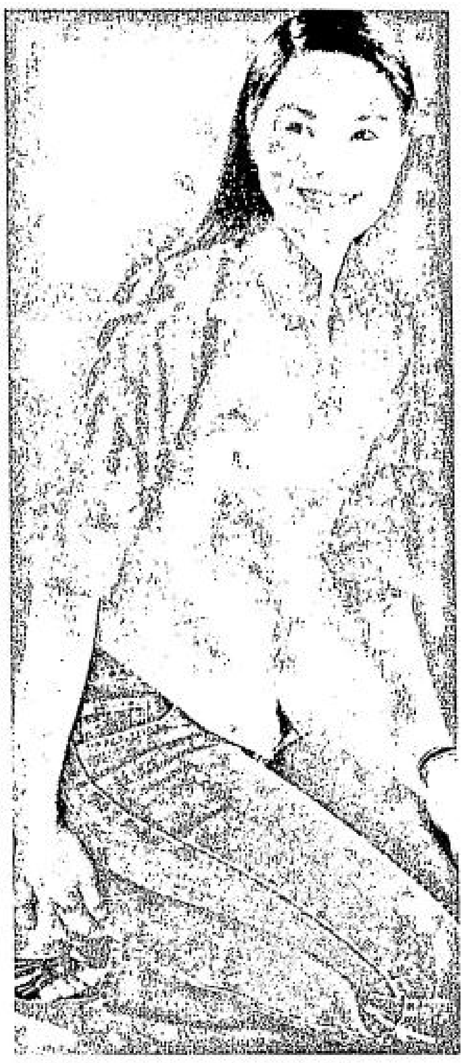
RDS Private Labels offer affordable selections like tops, jeans and polos to shoes, skirts, blazers and bags. Check out Julia for ladies' wear, bags and shoes; Portside for men's wear; Liberte for teenage girls' wear; and Footloose for slippers and sandals.

YELLOW polo and jeans from Portside



BLACK long-sleeved shirt and jeans from Portside

ON HER: Striped tee, three-quarter-sleeved shirt and mini skirt, all from Liberté. On him: white long-sleeved shirt, round-neck tee and jeans, all from Portside



RED blouse and jeans from Liberté

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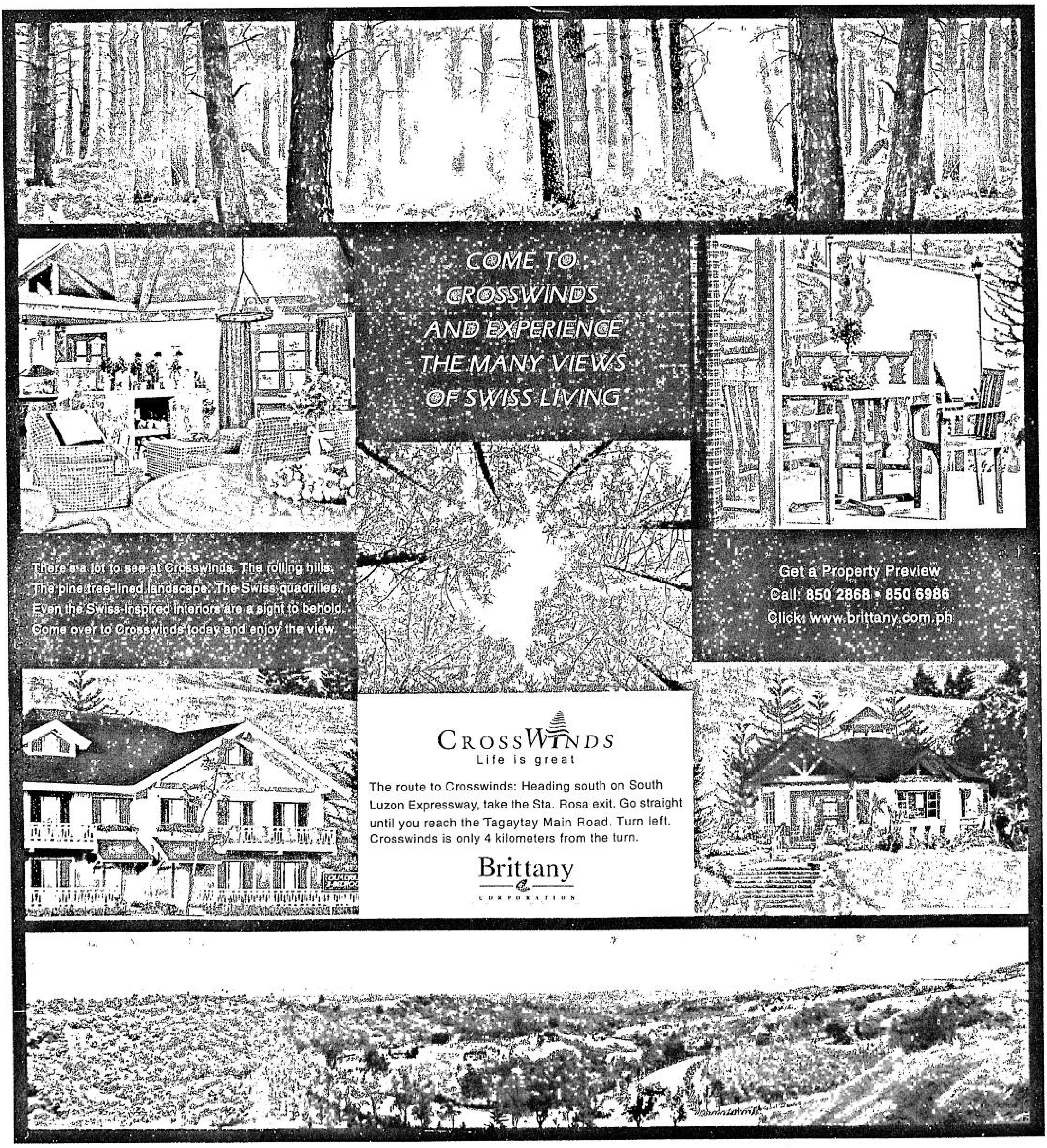

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CHOCO BANG
3 BOXES for ₱100
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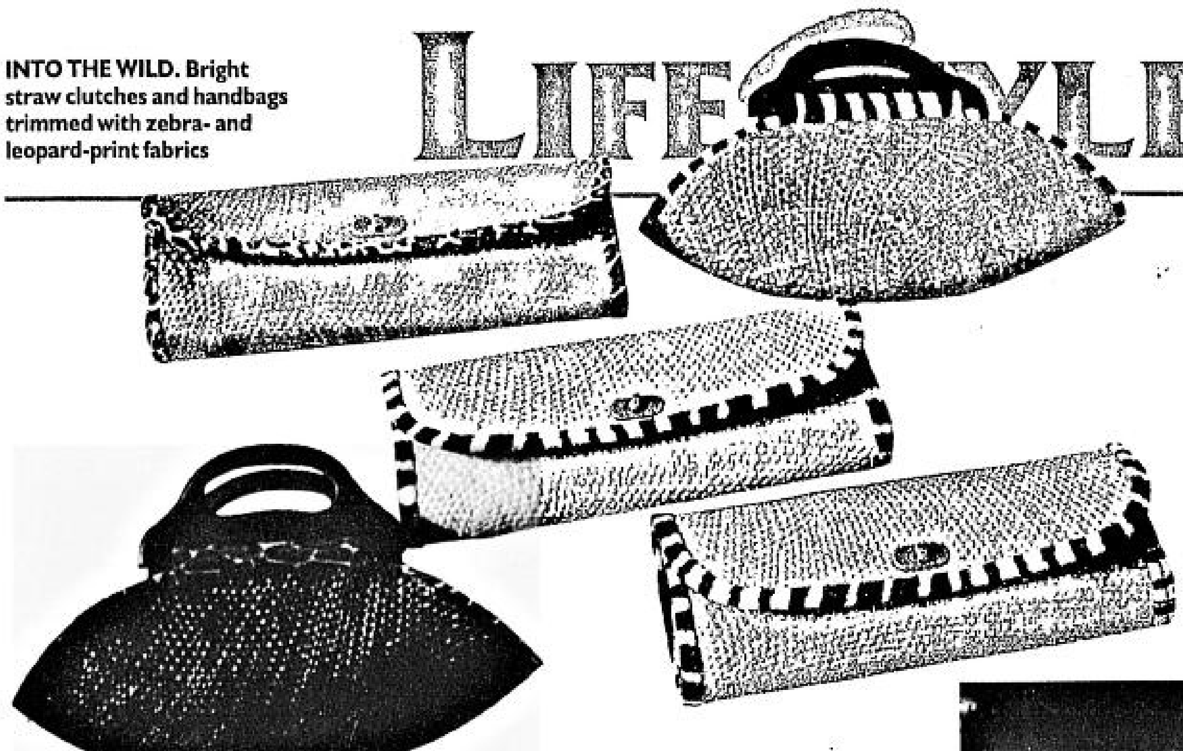


INTO THE WILD. Bright straw clutches and handbags trimmed with zebra- and leopard-print fabrics

Happily, the bag supplier to such big labels as Esprit, Nine West and Cynthia Rowley now has a real shop, having been 'evicted' by the man of the house

Aranaz doesn't live here anymore

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE MAN of the house had had it up to here, and he was putting his foot down: The Aranaz home could no longer be a place for business.

Those of you who relentlessly made house calls on bag exporter Rebecca "Becky" Aranaz for her gorgeous clutches and purses have only yourselves to blame. But if you ask Becky and daughter Amina, it was the "eviction" that finally forced them to set up shop.

Mom and daughter have long wanted to have an accessories boutique exclusive to the local market, following the warm response to their products at bazaars, but they never gave it serious thought until Becky's husband, Jose, began complaining.

"My husband would often bump into strangers in the lanai," Becky said in July, when she first told us about the store. Those "strangers" were buyers who usually came to reorder pieces from a previous bazaar. "He would say, *'Ano ba 'yan*, Becky, I can't even walk around the house anymore without running into your buyers,'" she recalled with a laugh.

Last week, Aranaz Manila opened its doors on the second level of City Golf Plaza in Pasig City. Since the signage had not been delivered yet, only a tiny display window clued in shoppers to the treats behind the bright pink door.

Becky had delayed the store's opening to wait for Amina's arrival from London, where she had finished a course in fashion styling at Central Saint Martins. Mom and daughter corresponded regularly to discuss product design. "Until now we're still editing," Amina said of the store's debut collection.

International styles

Also a graduate of accessories design at the Istituto Marangoni in Milan, Amina is bringing fresh ideas into Aranaz bags. Becky has been an exporter for 25 years, having supplied such brands as Rafe, Nine West, Adrienne Vittadini, Esprit, Franchi, Cynthia Rowley, among many others. (Incidentally, Amina was recently picked as local representative of the Italian fashion school's soon-to-open Philippine office.)

Aranaz Manila's styles for the local market are decidedly more "international." As export designs are dictated by their clients—"more basic and conservative"—the Aranazes are quite pleased they now have a venue to explore new design avenues.

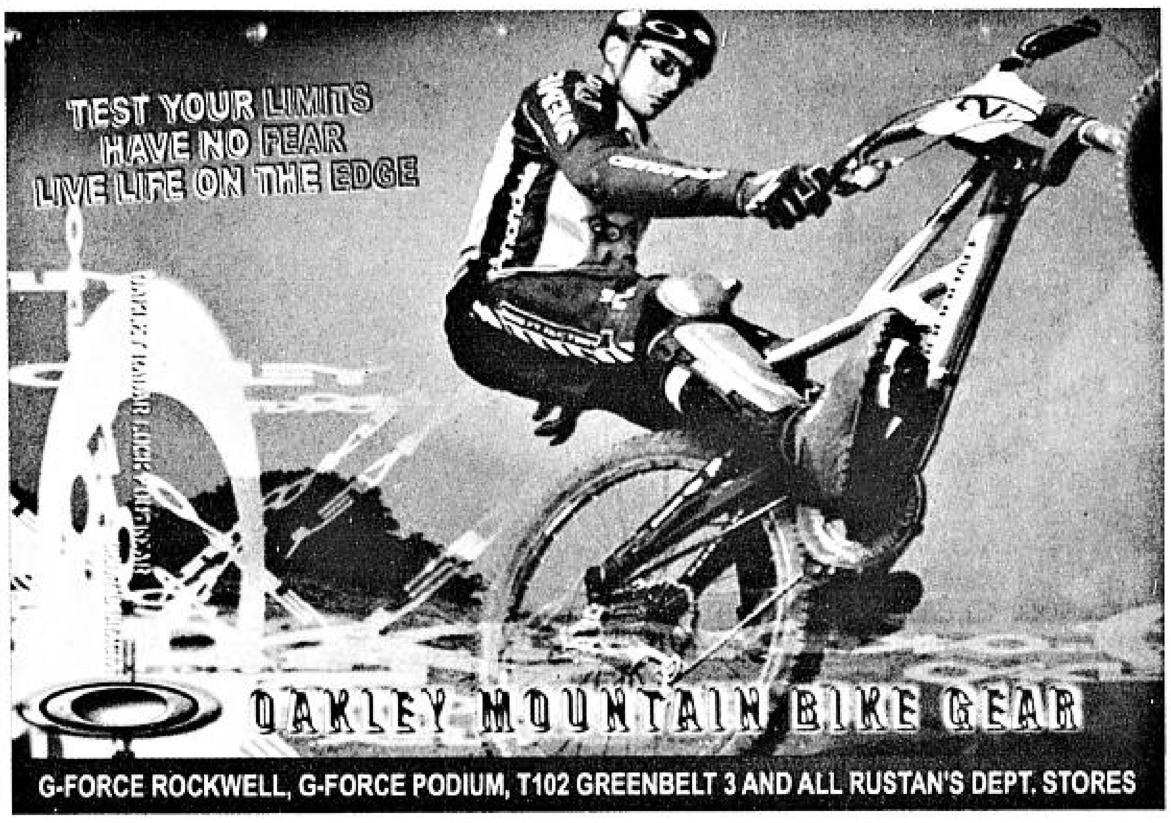
"Mom does business 'by feel,'" Amina said. "That's how she's always been. But when I tell her what I learned in school, she's very open to ideas. She says, 'Just tell me what you want to do and we'll do it.'"

This early, Amina's already making plans to design shoes for the store "because that's what I studied [in Milan]." She's also considering accepting made-to-order purses for special occasions.

The small shop belies the motley of eye candies within that are sure to send bagphiles into delirious overdrive. Just imagine, a year-round "bazaar" of Aranaz!

Unlike their export wares made mostly of native materials, Becky and Amina offer jew-

ARANAZ/ D2



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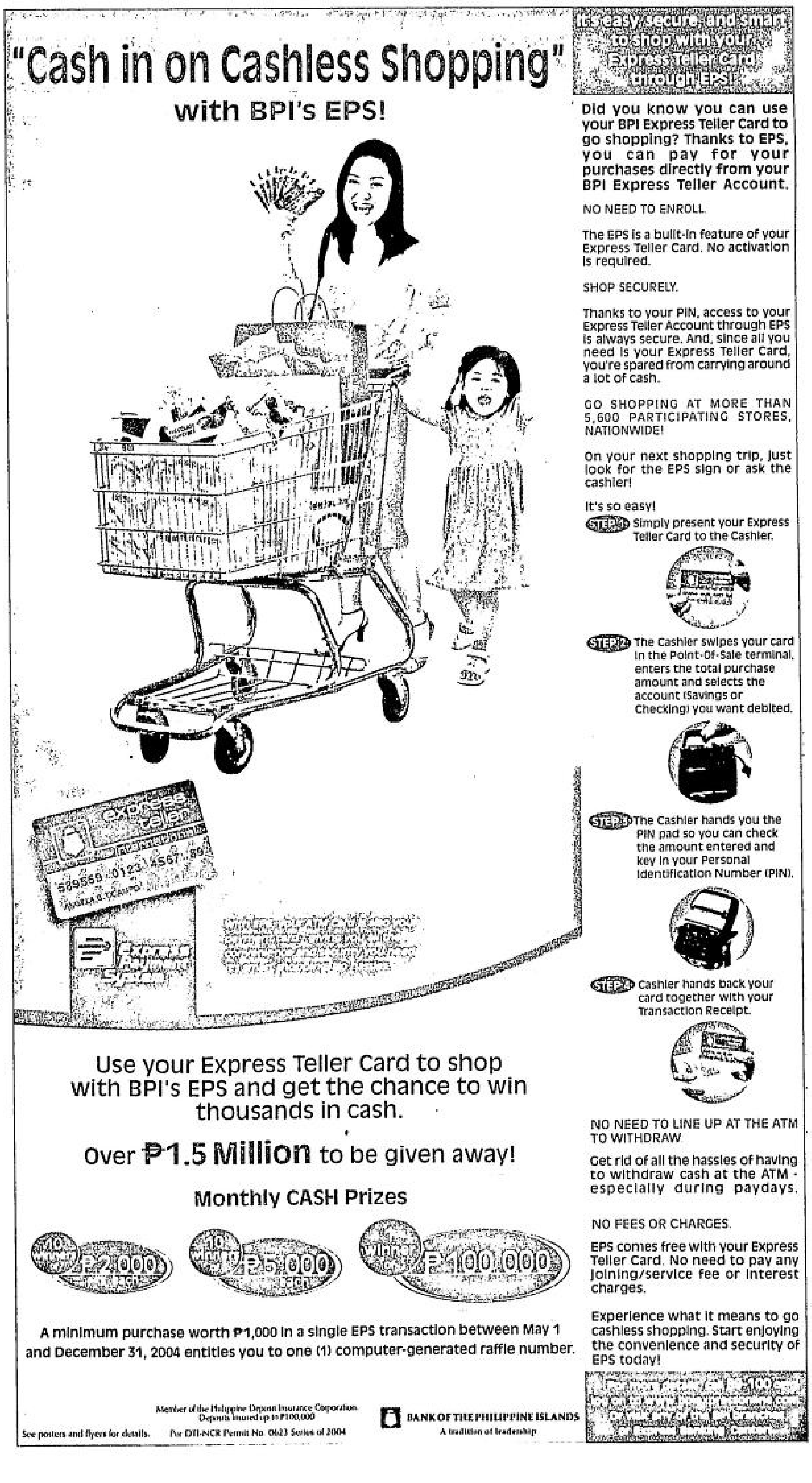
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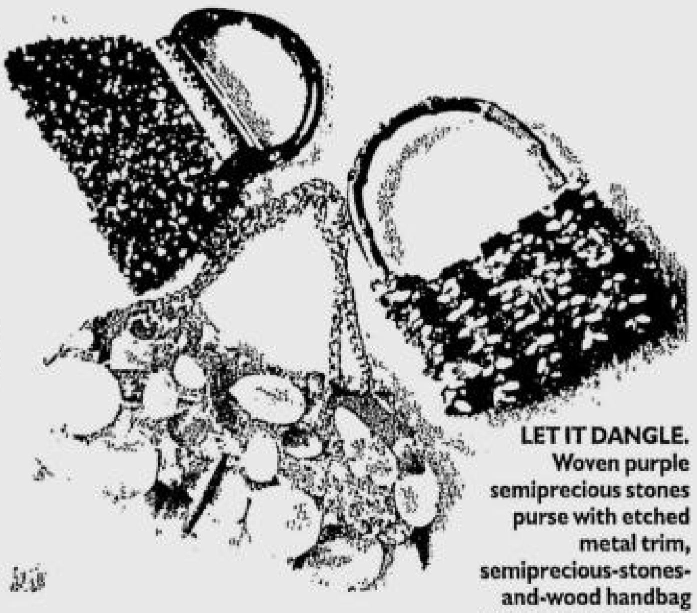
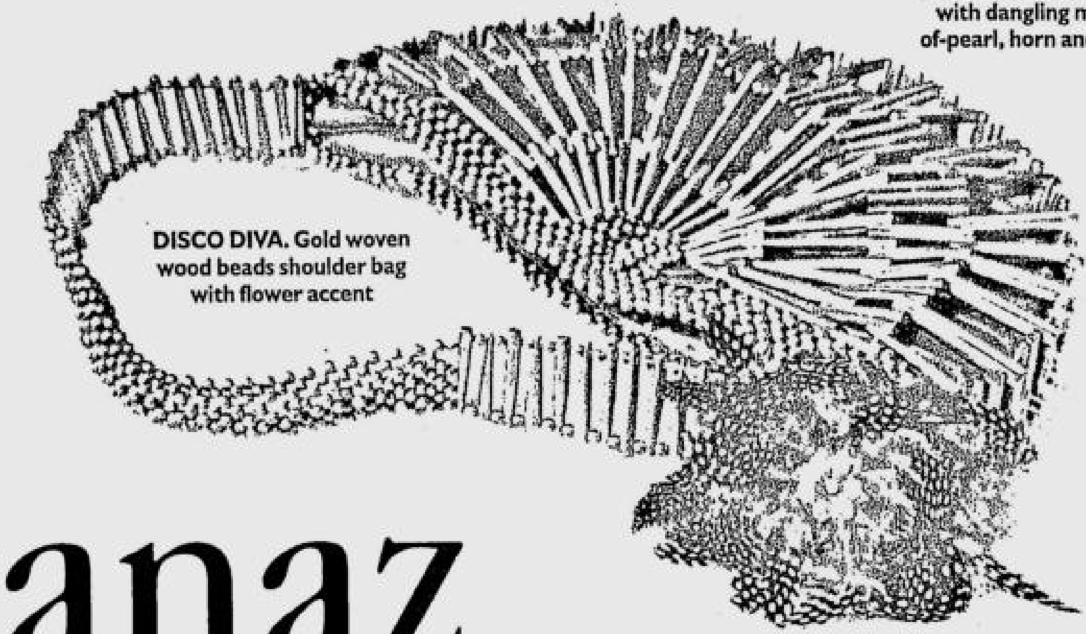
"FUR-PLE" REIGN. Semiprecious-stone evening bag trimmed with purple feathers, semiprecious stones-and-wood handbag with purple leather handle, and mother-of-pearl wristlet

MOON SHINE. Fully beaded and sequined half-moon clutch with tassel, and semiprecious stone-beaded handbag with wooden handle



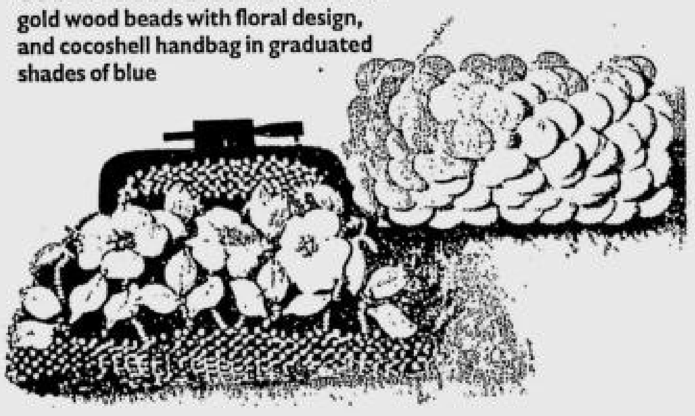
LET IT DANGLE. Woven purple semiprecious stones purse with etched metal trim, semiprecious-stones-and-wood handbag with bamboo handle, and fully sequined bag with dangling mother-of-pearl, horn and wood beads

BAG IT! Vintage T-shirts transformed into convenient foldable shopper bags



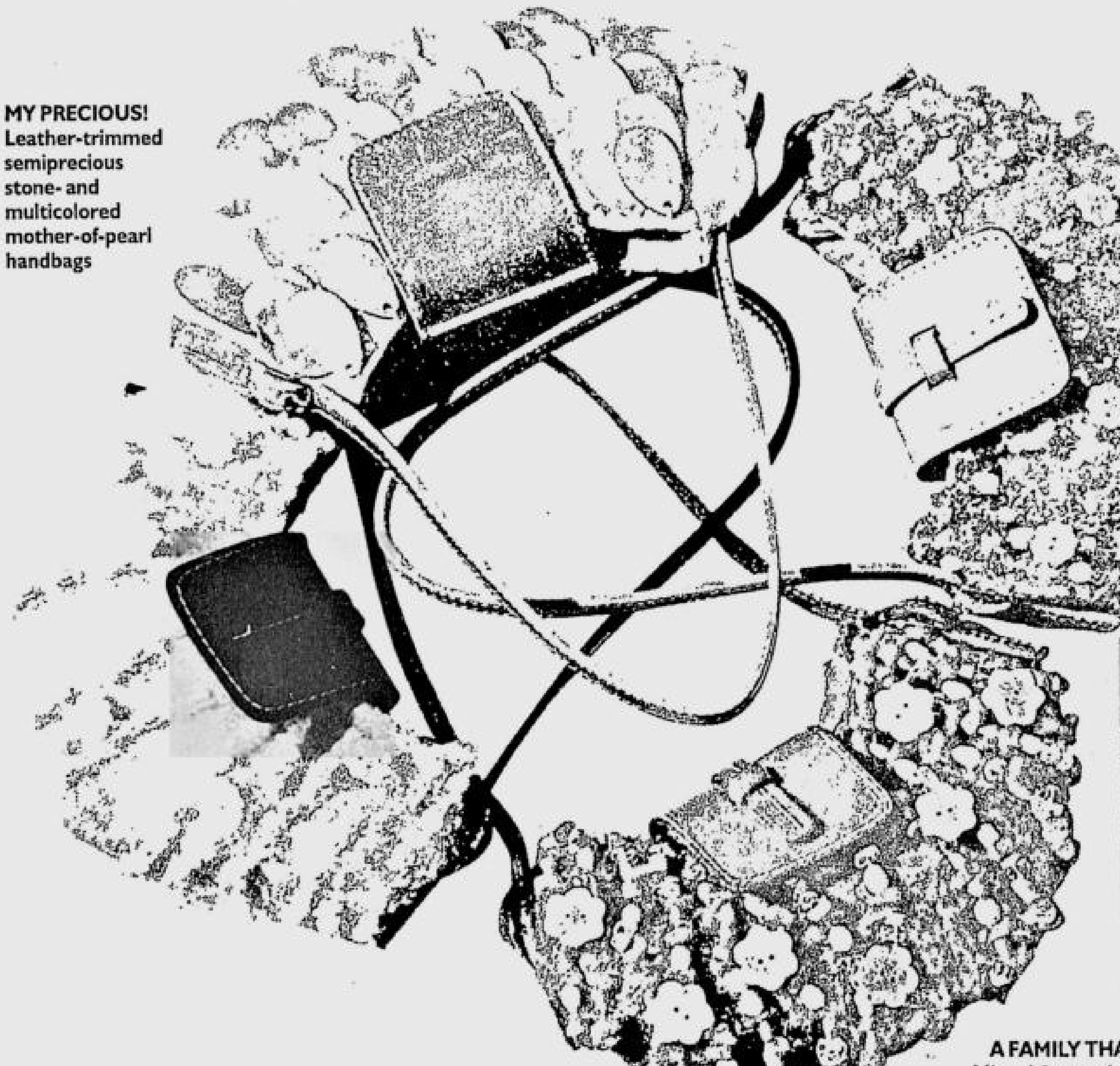
DISCO DIVA. Gold woven wood beads shoulder bag with flower accent

Aranaz doesn't live here anymore



COCO LOCO. Clutch made of woven gold wood beads with floral design, and cocoshell handbag in graduated shades of blue

TOW CHARM. Suede-and-leather tote with whimsical charms



MY PRECIOUS! Leather-trimmed semiprecious stone- and multicolored mother-of-pearl handbags

From page D1

eled evening purses with semiprecious stones and mother of pearl. For the holidays, they have metallic, pearlized, sequined and other embellished pieces. "It's 'more is more' for the holidays," Amina said.

But what's an Aranaz sans native materials? So there are trendy animal-print, fabric-accented pandan and raffia items, and brightly colored coco-shell purses. They also have suede and embossed leather-accented totes. Items are priced from P500 to P5,000.

"We want to keep them special so we're limiting most of our designs to only six pieces," Amina said. They plan to introduce 10 new styles each month.

Highly creative, the Aranaz family members put their individual imprints on the new shop.

Eldest child Miguel, who was off to London to take up his master's in graphic design, was responsible for the chic interiors of the shop. It was he who first sold Aranaz locally—from the trunk of his car—to his classmates in Ateneo.

The youngest, Rosanna, also embellished some vintage tees turned into foldable shopper bags. The young woman will soon introduce her own line of belts and other accessories.

As for the patriarch, well, he's happy and supportive so long as they give him peace in his lanai.

Aranaz Manila is located on the 2/L City Golf Plaza, Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City (near Valle Verde 4). Call 0917-5293828.

A FAMILY THAT MAKES BAGS TOGETHER... Siblings Amina and Miguel Aranaz join creative forces with their mom Becky (center) to set up the all-year, every-year "bazaar" for Aranaz-philes.

JUICED. Orange-leather-trimmed pandan clutch, cocoshell flower wristlet, and leather-trimmed woven wood beads handbag with bamboo handle

ALL BAG ADDICTS WELCOME. The quaint little bag boutique called Aranaz Manila

MOM AND ME PHOTO CONTEST
Cast your votes for your favorite photo in Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter's Mom and Me photo contest. The competing photos are now on display at all Robinsons branches. Voting is ongoing until Sept. 24. To join, buy a minimum of P300 single receipt of any children's products, which is equivalent to one vote and which will also serve as one raffle entry.

Art for stronger family

GOINGS ON

A FAMILY-ORIENTED art show that aims to strengthen the Filipino family is being held by the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals until Sept. 19 at SVD mission office, Christ the King Seminary, 101 E. Rodriguez, QC. The exhibit-sale features the works of National Artist Arturo Luz, Tam Austria, Oscar Zalameda, Rafael Cusi, Manny Baldemor, Angelito Antonio, Norma Belleza, Loreto Racuya and Jimmy Kwong.

GARDEN SHOW. Flora Quezon is holding its 9th annual garden show until Sept. 20 at 234 Quezon Ave., Lucena City, Quezon. Seminars on various plant topics are given at 2 p.m. daily. Call 0917-5276712.

EVENT. Visitors to the Pagayaya na Cagayan Valley Region ta Intramuros, today until Oct. 3, will be treated to an interactive showcase. The event is in line with Wow Philippines' "Ganda ng Pilipinas, Galing ng Pilipino" program of the Department of Tourism, which showcases the whole country at Clamshell I, Plaza San Ignacio, Anda corner Sta. Lucia Streets, Intramuros, Manila.

SALE. The women's lifestyle exhibition bazaar dubbed "All About Her" will be held Sept. 18-19 at The Forum I of PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 8250804/ 8253482.

SEMINAR. Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 7 (excluding weekends), 12 nn-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, 2nd level, Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 6871787/ 0916-8226053.

EXHIBIT. A wide variety of design interpretations inspired by popular movie themes will be showcased at the annual exhibit of the Philippine School of Interior Design Advanced Class 2004, dubbed "Popcorn: PSID Goes to the Movies." The event will be held Oct. 2-31 at Paseo Center, Makati. Call 8191197/ 8191201.

YOGA CLASSES. Paul Dallaghan, founder of Yoga Thailand, will be in Manila on Oct. 4-8 to conduct a series of Mysore self-practice and led classes. Call 8170299.

EXHIBIT. The Philippine Exhibition on Eternal Care Industry dubbed "Silent Moments" is scheduled on Oct. 8-9 at The Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 8250804/ 8253482.

Fashion design tilt finals set

THE FINALS of the Philippine Fashion Design Competition (PFDC) 2004 will be held 6 p.m., Oct. 7 at Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City. A fashion show will feature the designs of the 25 semifinalists in the contest organized by the Fashion & Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Saga Events + Models and Ayala Center. Robby Carmona will direct the show.

The top five in the competition will represent the country in the Concours International des Jeunes Createurs de Mode (International Competition of Young Fashion Designers) to be held Dec. 16 in Paris, France.

The grand prize winner will receive a free round-trip ticket to Paris for the competition.

Theme of the Paris competition is "Ecology and Environment." As participating countries can have their own adaptations, the FDCP chose "Rebirth and Renewal: The Philippine Butterfly" to promote the butterfly sleeves of the terno.

The production meeting at the Oakwood Suites was attended by the FDCP officers: Randy E. Ortiz, president; Vittorio M. Barba, vice president; and Patrice Ramos-Diaz, treasurer; Ayala Land Inc. Commercial Centers Group management team: Rowena Tomeldan, vice president; Cesar Jose "CJ" C. Jesena, senior division manager; Cathy Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager; and Myrna C. Fernandez, center manager, Greenbelt; and Carmona, managing director, Saga Events + Models.

The screening committee consisted of Ortiz, Barba, Ramos-Diaz, Rajo Laurel, Dennis Lustico, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Dong Omaga Diaz and Frederick Peralta.

The 25 semifinalists are Francis Abao (Cebu), Jerome Ang (Manila), Jay Abalos (Quezon City), Dodjie Batu (Davao), John Paul Cabigon (Cebu), Chris Diaz (Parañaque City), Emi Englis (Davao), Jun Escario (Cebu), Joel Escober (Las Piñas), Patricia Eustaquio (Manila), Allain Fonte (Cebu), Alejandro Godinez Jr. (Cebu), John Herrera (Marikina), Brian Leyva (Antipolo), Rolando Lotho (Makati), Ignacio Loyola (Cavite), Bo Parcon (Iloilo), Don Protasio (Iloilo), Puey Quinones (Makati), John Paul Rangel (Quezon City), Garimon Roferos (Davao), Cary Santiago (Cebu), Randall Solomon (Makati), Edwin Tan (Mandaluyong) and Ricardo Vicencio (Malabon).

Each semifinalist was paired with past finalists and winners of local and international competitions as part of FDCP's Mentoring Program that aims to provide guidance to young designers.

Grand prize winner in the international competition will receive a one-year scholarship to the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, among others. The international jury will also give an Incentive Award of 450 euros to a designer from each participating country (except the country that wins the grand prize).

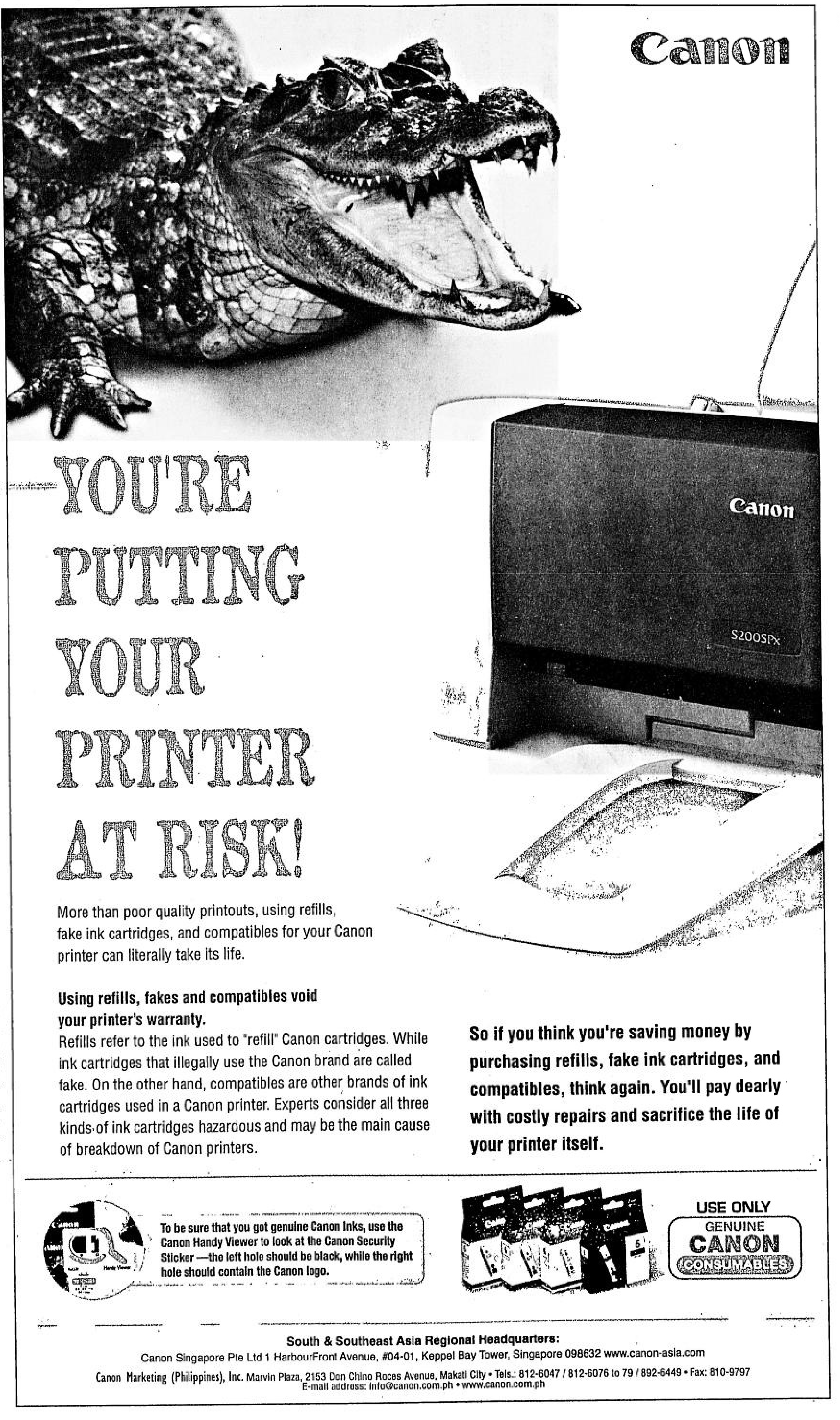
Special prize winners will receive training in the Lesage School of Art Embroidery as well as a sewing and embroidery machine.

Designs by Peralta, Jesus Lloren and Diaz won in previous competitions.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Doris Nuyda's weekly column "Seeing Green" can now be read every Sunday in the Sunday Lifestyle Section of this paper.



Canon

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More than poor quality printouts, using refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles for your Canon printer can literally take its life.

Using refills, fakes and compatibles void your printer's warranty.
Refills refer to the ink used to "refill" Canon cartridges. While ink cartridges that illegally use the Canon brand are called fake. On the other hand, compatibles are other brands of ink cartridges used in a Canon printer. Experts consider all three kinds of ink cartridges hazardous and may be the main cause of breakdown of Canon printers.

So if you think you're saving money by purchasing refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles, think again. You'll pay dearly with costly repairs and sacrifice the life of your printer itself.

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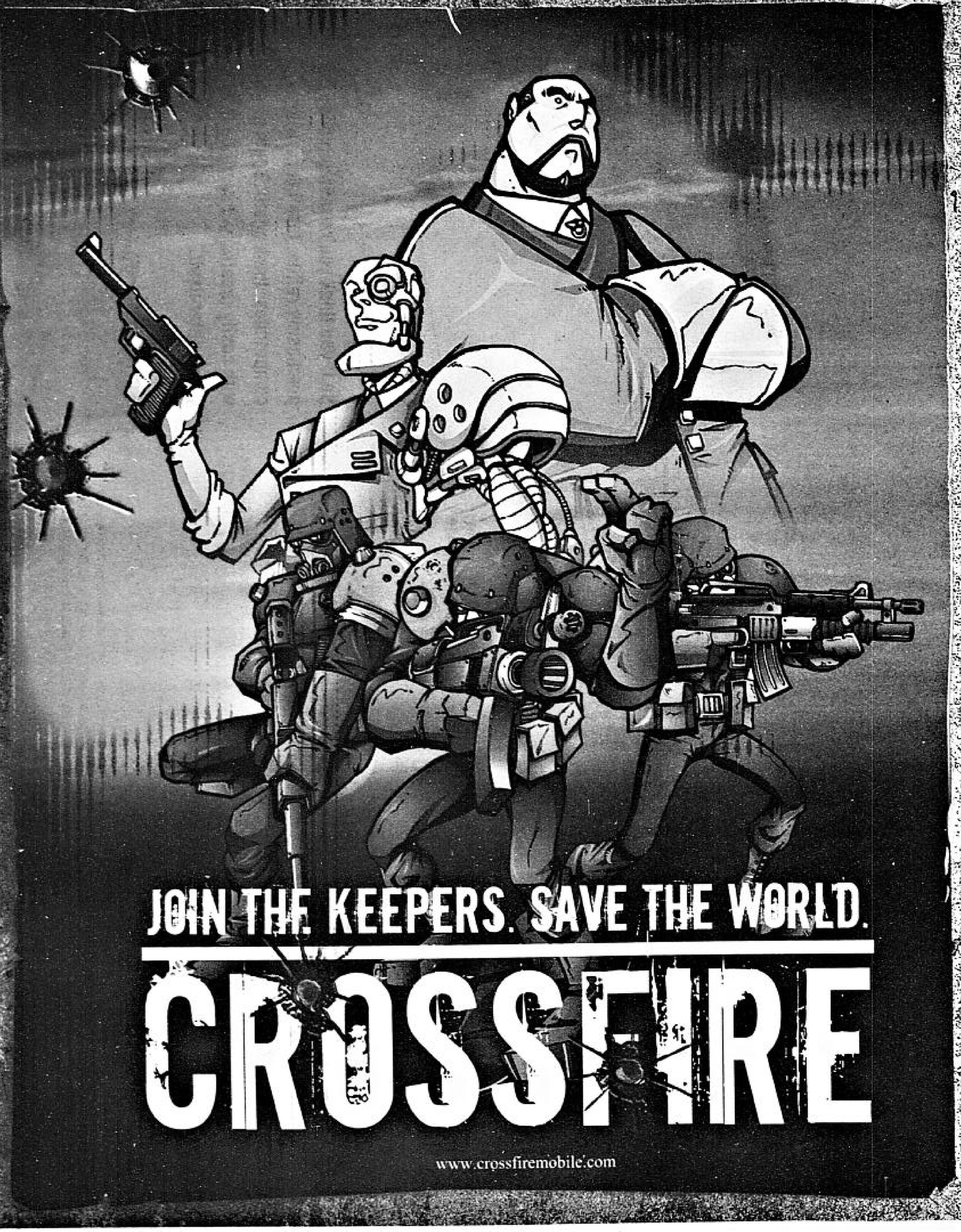

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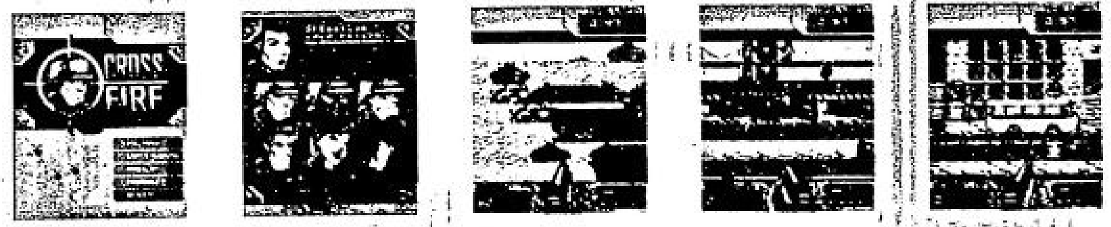

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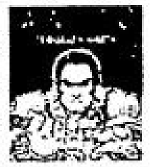
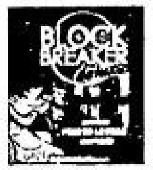

Teralago's Wrath

Highway Racer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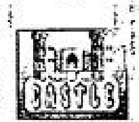
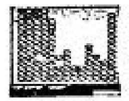
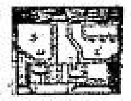
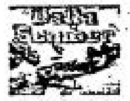

Pinball Castle

Bunny Trail

Diamond Mine


M-Whirl


Super Buggies


Delta Bomber

Link It

Demon's Treasure

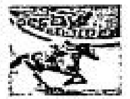
Backstage Pass

Assassin

Helicab

Grand Slam Champ

F Speed Forge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   Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6220, 6230, 6600, 6820, 7200 and 7610 text GO <handset model>,,1234 to 2951.
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3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
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HOW TO DOWNLOAD CROSSFIRE:

1. **Go to the myGlobe WAP site by pressing "0" for 3 seconds. (Or go to the WAP Services menu of your phone and select "Home".)**
2. **Click on "Crossfire" under "What's Hot" and download the game.**

CROSSFIRE RATE:
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LIFESTYLE

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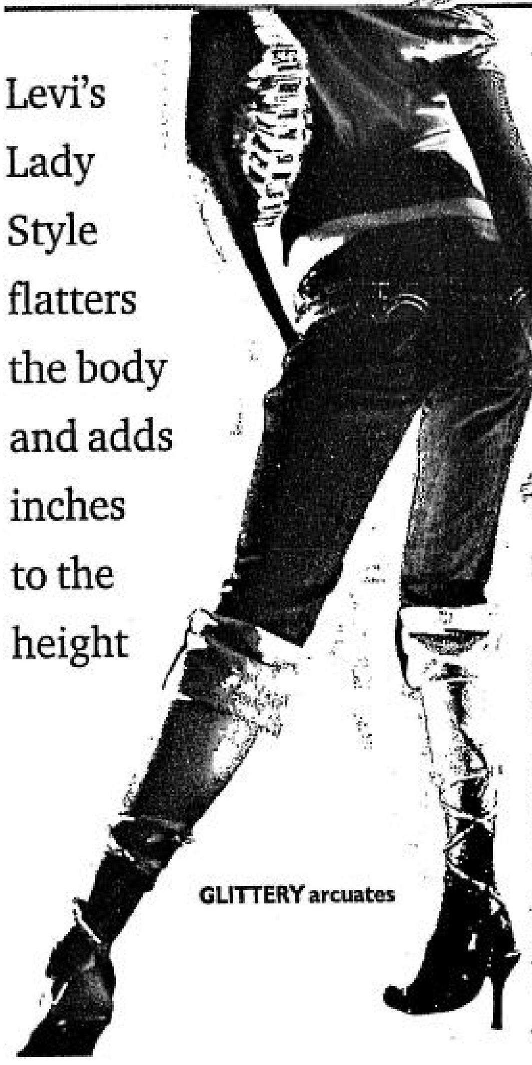
Denims go foxy

Levi's Lady Style flatters the body and adds inches to the height

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan



GLITTERY arcuates

TO PROVIDE women with more options and perhaps to keep up with the competition, Levi's has recently launched its Levi's Lady Style of figure-flattering, attention-grabbing tops and jeans with interesting details such as embossed and Swarovski-embellished pockets.

Denim and sateen (stretched cotton) jeans come in several fits and colors designed to spice up any woman's evening wardrobe. Whether she goes for slim, flare, boot or shoe cut, every pair is tight

DENIMS/ E2

After three cocktails, you'll be amazed how attractive he is

'Love at first sight' was invented in bars

Two's company, three's a fantasy!

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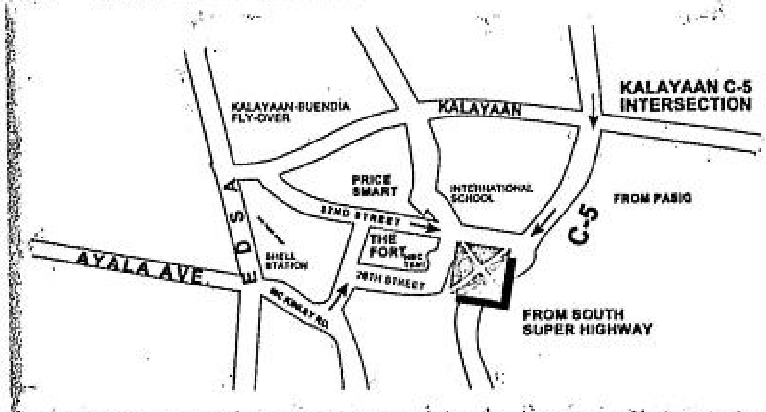
ANG MARKET NA MALL, ANG MALL NA MARKET. NOW OPEN!



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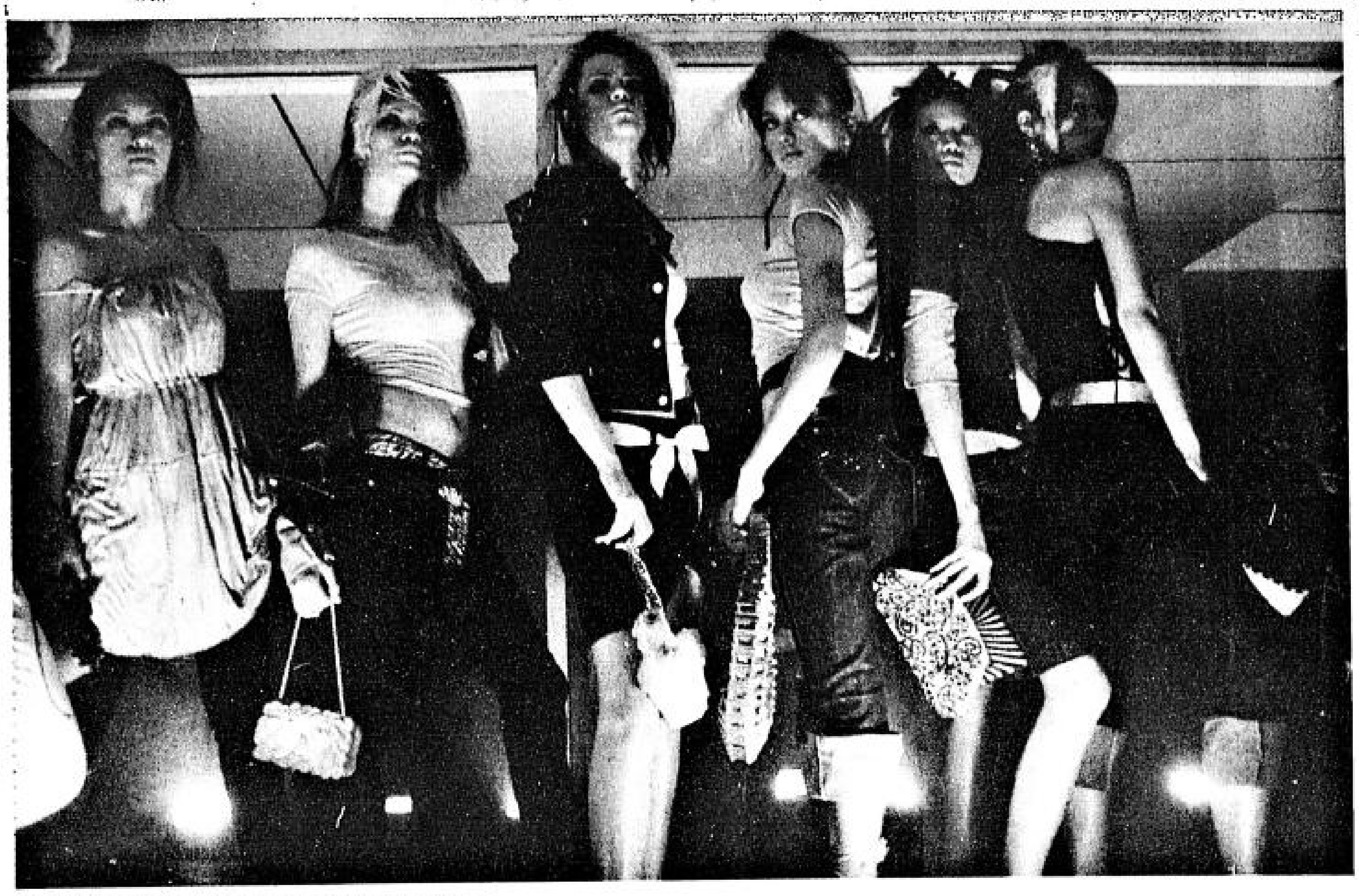


EVERY item is Levi's, except bags and accessories

Denims go foxy

LAYERING is the name of the game

> Every pair of Levi's Lady Style is tight enough to make legs look longer and, well, derrieres more pronounced

From page E1

enough to make legs look longer and, well, derrieres more pronounced—indeed, two "problem" areas most petite Filipinas want to address and enhance.

"This latest innovation came from our Japanese designers," says Michelle Borromeo, consumer marketing manager of Levi Strauss Philippines. "The pieces were designed primarily with the Asian woman in mind."

Darts, for instance, give the legs an illusion of length. If that extra "height" isn't enough to get people's attention, perhaps the jazzed-up pair of arcuates (Levi's trademark V-shaped topstitching on the back pockets) will do the trick. This time, they come either with added sparkle—thanks to Swarovski crystals—or extra volume via embossed heart-shaped behind-the-scene details.

"The basic, five-pocket jeans are the ones you wear to work," Borromeo adds. "These new pieces are decidedly sexier and more glamorous."

To complete the look, Levi's also launched several form-fitting denim jackets, retrofitted pencil skirts and body-hugging ruched, asymmetric and tank cotton tops with the brand's signature "two-horses" design. Again, the image on the chest glows with added sparkle for casual but glammed-up *gimik* nights.

Levi's recently launched the pieces in a fashion show dubbed "Reveal the Perfect Fit." Directed by Robby Carmona and styled by Jenni Epperson of INQUIRER's Just Shop, the show featured models in their Levi's Lady Style pieces, which were made more eye-catching through layering and such de rigueur accessories as ribbons, sashes and brooches.

The chances of you bumping into someone wearing the same ensemble have been lessened, as the collection is available at certain Levi's outlets for a limited time only.

Among the designated outlets selling the Levi's Lady Style are Glorietta, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Manila, SM Megamall, Sta. Lucia East, Market! Market! and Ayala Center Cebu.

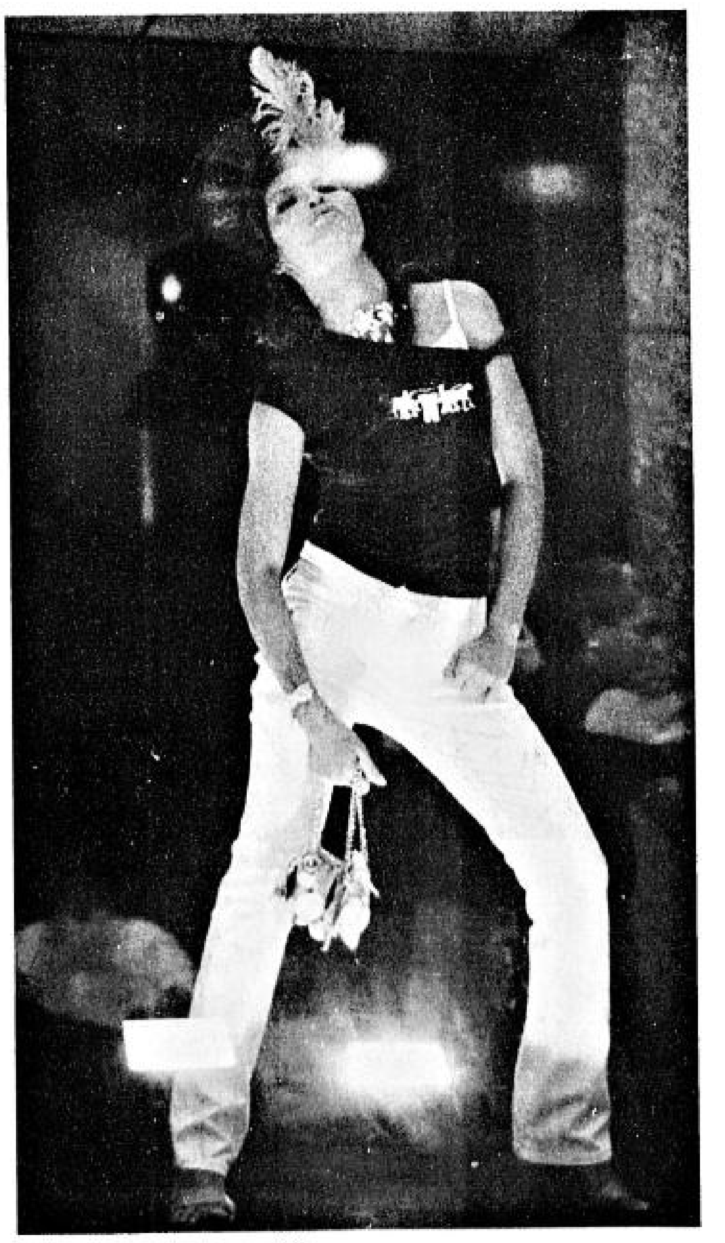
Or, you can always hold your breath and step into a pair of extra-high heels and hope that you'd look taller, slimmer and curvier than the next girl.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

BELLYBUTTON girl

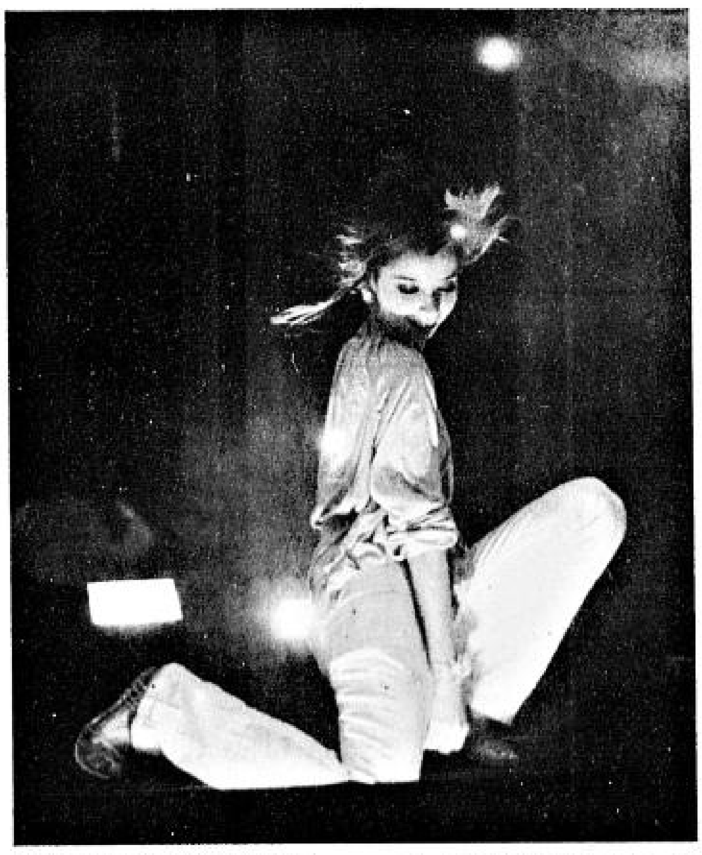
BROOCH up

REVEAL those runway legs.



SHE loves her "long-legged."

LEVI'S style icons Isabel Roces, Angel Jacob and Wendy Puyat-Hotung



WHITE jeans beyond summer

Fashion that's never run of the mill

MILLY, designed by Michelle Smith of New York, is for the girl who likes to look pretty, cheeky, sexy and fun. The collection merges vintage couture fabrics like wool and silk with feminine and modern silhouettes, always with a twist of humor.

Smith's designs are inspired by her roots and experiences: "My Connecticut childhood, my time spent in Paris, soaking up the culture and the nonchalant elegance of the women there and my life as a single working girl in New York, wanting clothes that are sexy and fun but still allow me to be taken seriously."

She seeks to dress up a goal-oriented, fun, postmodern woman.

Michelle Smith parlayed a childhood playing dress-up and sketching princesses in lavish ball gowns into an art school scholarship at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

At the age of 18, she landed a part-time job with the luxury brand Hermés. After graduation, she became the first American employee sent to intern in Paris by the legendary luxury goods house. While in Paris, she continued her studies at design school Esmod.

Her drive and talent afforded her breakthrough internships at Louis Vuitton, Torrente and Christian Dior Haute Couture, where she worked in the grand salon on the Avenue Montaigne.

Milly was launched in spring 2001 with Smith's business partners Andrew and Edward Oshrin.

In less than three years, the Milly collection has developed a loyal following with retailers and customers. Her clothes have been seen on Kristin Davis ("Sex and the City"), Jennifer Aniston ("Friends"), Gwyneth Paltrow ("Shallow Hal") and Debra Messing ("Will and Grace"). Milly was also featured in the recent comedy film "Uptown Girl," starring Brittany Murphy.

The Fall 2004 collection features fabulous renditions in wool, flannel, cashmere, silk and chiffon.

In the Philippines, Milly is available at Mix, G/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

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FERRAGAMO 2004 Picnic eyewear

Picnic in the shade

SALVATORE Ferragamo presents Picnic, its new range of sunglasses. The name brings to mind a vacation in Italy, with carefree luncheons on the grass or by a shady riverbank.

The real novelty in these new sunglasses is the shaft in hand-embroidered polychrome raffia—one of the oldest traditional craft products Tuscany has to offer.

Woven, braided, embroidered, raffia is a shiny fiber obtained from the young leaves of a palm that grows in East Africa. It has been a Ferragamo classic staple material ever since 1927 when Salvatore Ferragamo returned to Italy—after his American triumph—and settled in Florence to create extraordinary shoes using every type of material imaginable.

Ferragamo-made shoes were not merely the result of outstanding artisan work. They were objects of study for their innovations on shapes, materials and colors, fitting perfectly into the context of 20th-century artistic research and not merely the world of fashion.

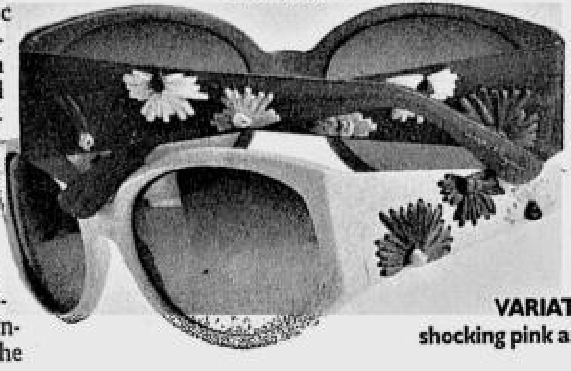
For the beach or luxurious cruises, the raffia sandals and ballerina shoes became a constant motif in Ferragamo collections, proving that skillful crafting and creativity can turn even the humblest material into a true fashion exclusive.

And it is a historic shoe, a raffia sandal created by Ferragamo in 1938 and now conserved in the Salvatore Ferragamo Museum in Florence, that provided the inspiration for Picnic.

Both the material and the polychrome cornflowers that decorate the shaft of the sunglasses are based on the design of that famous sandal, and they are made with the same traditional technique that mechanization simply cannot duplicate.

The sunglasses are made of acetate and come in six colors: black, light horn, white, shocking pink, tortoiseshell and dark purple, and are available with an oval or rectangular front that can be fitted with prescription lenses.

If the sunglasses can be considered little masterpieces, the same can be said of their oval cases. The raffia-look fabric is embroidered with the same cornflower pattern, bringing a breath of freshness and color to luxury eyewear.



VARIATIONS in shocking pink and white

HOW HAIR GROWS AND WHAT CAUSES HAIR LOSS

The Hair Growth Cycle

Hair grows in cycle with three phases. In the Anagen phase, the follicle continuously produces hair for more than five years. This is followed by the Catagen phase when the follicle rapidly decreases in size while it shrinks towards the surface and pigment formation stops. This transition phase lasts approximately 2-3 weeks. Then, the hair undergoes the Telogen phase, when the follicle rests from 3 to 4 months. At this phase, no new hair is formed and prepares the follicle for the cycle to begin again.

On a normal scalp, 85% of the hair is growing while 15% are in the resting phase at any given time.

The hair growth cycle is similar to an on-off system. It is the only organ in the human body that can regrow itself and has a resting period where it stops growing for a time.

GROWTH PHASE
The "on"phase that can last an average of approximately 1,000 days, but it can reach a span of 3 to 5 years.

TRANSITIONAL PHASE
This is the regression or the beginning of the "off" phase before the resting state begins where the follicle rapidly decreases in volume while it shrink towards the surface and pigment formation stops. This transition phase lasts approximately 2-3 weeks.

RESTING PHASE
The "off" phase which lasts for about 3-4 months. It is in this stage that the hair is shed before the growth phase begins again. Also, this is when the hair follicle retracts and its base moves up towards the surface of the skin.

Each follicle undergoes the cycle independently and not all at the same time so that the normal daily loss is 50-100 hair strands and the normal daily regrowth is likewise 50-100 hair strands.

An increase in falling hair may just be part of the normal growth cycle of hair. Or it may be a sign that you need to seek advice from a medical professional. When symptoms persist, it pays to seek medical advice.

Why do men and women lose hair?

In most cases, men lose hair because of hereditary reasons. The hair follicle in the anterior scalp and vertex progressively shrinks and becomes smaller. On the other hand women lose hair due to their menstrual cycle, pregnancy, emotional stress, over-intake of Vitamin A, anemia or thyroid malfunction. Other causes of hair loss include: hair abuse like excessive blow drying, frequent styling, too much brushing, harsh chemical treatment and pollution.

Knowing the cause is just the start

Advances in the medical profession have found effective cures for a medical problem such as excessive hair loss. Knowing what causes it is just the start of the treatment process. You still need expert advice only medical professionals can offer.

Minoxidil is one of the best medical treatments for hair loss. For genetic alopecia, Minoxidil is the only proven effective topical therapy. You want long hair? Start now with Minoxidil Regroe.

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PACCD is holding a dermatology convention
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More men and women can now attest to the effectiveness of Minoxidil Regroe as a solution to their hair loss problem.

AUTHORIZED BY EXPERTS
Minoxidil Regroe is clinically and dermatologically tested for product safety and efficacy based on studies conducted by the Dermatology Institute Foundation of the Philippines (DIFP). It is the first hair regrowth treatment approved by The US-FDA and BFAD in the Philippines. Most medical experts now recommend Minoxidil Regroe for hair loss treatment. Studies convincingly show that:
1. Two times a day application stops excessive falling hair within 1 month.
2. New hair starts to grow within 3 months of treatment. Hair follicles are continuously stimulated to grow bigger follicles, thus producing relatively longer and thicker hair.

national shoppers' choice ANNUAL AWARDS
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HOW MINOXIDIL REGROE WORKS:
STIMULATION. Minoxidil Regroe directly stimulates the small hair matrix cells to continuously divide and multiply to produce longer and thicker hair.
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ANTI-ANDROGEN ACTION. Minoxidil Regroe acts as an anti-androgen by inhibiting the synthesis of dihydrotestosterone, the active form of androgen which is responsible for the clinical occurence of baldness.

Minoxidil is the generic name of Regroe
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

For questions on hair loss, call 817 - 3303

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER F1

LIFESTYLE

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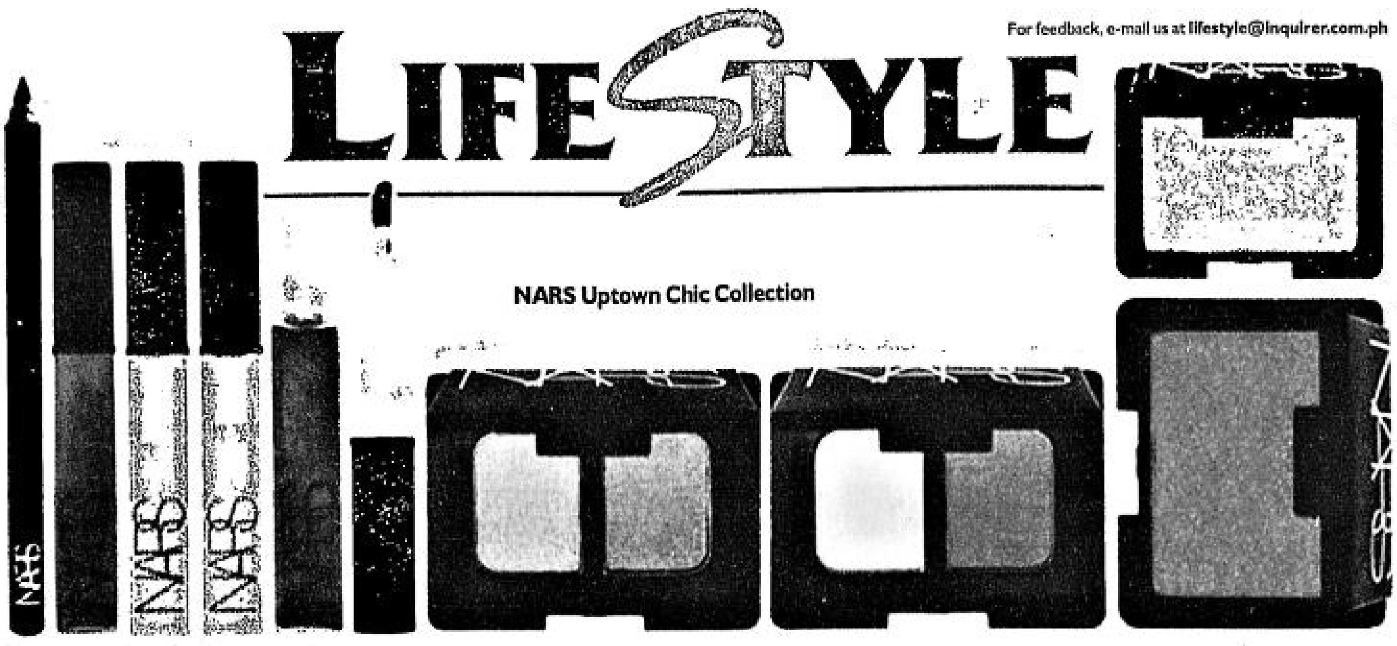


NARS Uptown Chic Collection

Time for looks hot and dramatic

I HAVE always looked forward to the Fall/Winter makeup trends because they always meant more dramatic colors and looks, as opposed to the barely-there sheers, nudes and glosses of Spring/Summer.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Not everyone is a makeup addict, though, and these are the times they dread, because with dramatic makeup comes greater chances for goof-ups.

Well, a lot of makeup brands have taken into consideration the changing times. Women want it all: motherhood, career and looking glamorous to boot.

Thus, many beauty purveyors have come out with beauty colors and tools that make the sexy glam look more attainable to ordinary working women with minimal effort. Here are some of them.

Tip: You don't need to get the entire collection, just pick those that you are more interested in.

Chanel Fall/Winter limited-edition palettes in Think Ink (plums), Tint (reds) and Print (roses) liquid crème lip color are must-haves at P2,750 each. The texture is between gel and cream that goes on as a smooth, long-lasting and non-drying powder on lips, to be applied with a sponge tip applicator.

Each palette contains three shades you can mix and match for unlimited options. Lips and nails are seductively red and eyes are smoky but not very idiot-proof to apply, so my focus is really on the liquid crème lip color and automatic liquid eyeliner.

The eyeliner is not messy to apply as the felt tip gives one more control, so dramatically lined sexy eyes reminiscent of Old World glamour is now achievable even by the clumsiest of hands.

Shu Uemura Future Mode limited editions. Focusing on the eyes, this one offers four eye shadows (at P1,250 each) with impeccable quality (does not crease, smear or fade)—Asteroid Rose, Asteroid Orange, Satellite Blue and Satellite Purple.

The false eyelashes (P900 a pair) are also selling like hotcakes. Comet has rhinestones for the outer corner of the eyes to open them up, while Meteoric Showers are meant to highlight selected areas like individual lashes and make them lusher.

The two-tipped eye color pencils (P1,125 each) in Satellite (silver and black ends) and Asteroid (reddish gold and black brown pearl ends) are for glam eyes in a jiffy. Just draw on and smudge for instant drama. Any kid can do it.

Lips go nude with three Lolishine (P1,125) shades—915 (rose beige), 919 (pink beige) and 964 (light brown). I got 919 and 964, as the peachy tint of 915 doesn't suit me. For foundation, try Shu Uemura's new water perfect water-in-fluid foundation, which gives sheer to medium coverage and a semi-matte finish.

For those with a lot to hide, stick to the Nobara foundation, which can hide the worst pigmentation or pimple scars.

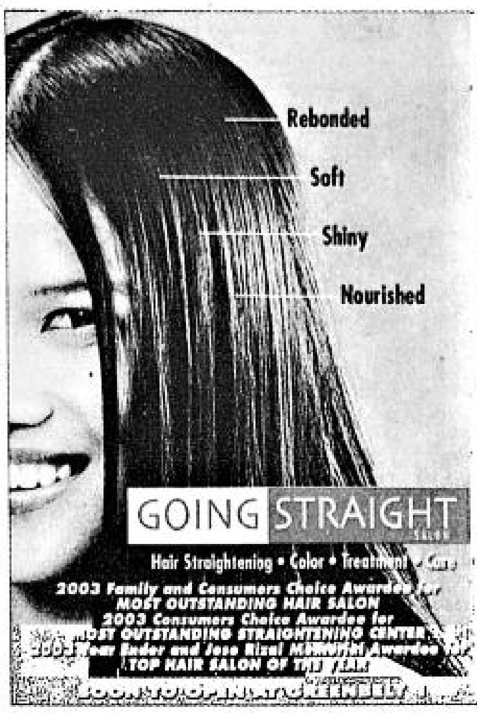
The Body Shop Hot Lips and Sexy Eyes. The most reasonably priced of the entire bunch, this consists of five key pieces: one matte shimmer square (MSS, P895) that can be used for eyes and cheeks, highlights and contours in neutral matte brown and pink beige shimmer, two duo eye color (DEC, P495), each in hazel pearl/gold shimmer and plum pearl/pink shimmer. Last but not least are the lip gloss in pink shine and coffee shine.

For perfect combinations such as hot lips and eyes, use MSS, but apply it in small dots then pat with your finger, as the texture is very rich, and a little goes a long way. For lips, use coffee shine lip gloss, while any deep-color lip liner can be used if you want staying power.

Sexy eyes can be had with DEC in plum pearl/pink shimmer or hazel pearl/gold shimmer and lips in pink shine gloss. Any black eyeliner will do to line the eyes, but the blush for both looks will come from the matte shimmer brick.

For the foundation, I recommend the Ultra Smooth Face Base (P895), which leaves a matte velvet finish and hides minor imperfections. Looks like you have nothing on but perfect

TIME/ F3



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LAWYER Reginald Oben, Alfred Ty, Mobuharu Tabata, Severino Lim, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and Bayanihan dancer Pebbles Ragon doing the ceremonial pouring of water to symbolize business harmony.

MASTER of ceremonies Eric Eloriaga, MMDA Chair Fernando, Bayanihan executive director Suzie Benitez and Toyota Motor Phils. vice president Alfred Ty

TOYOTA Shaw's hotshot chair Severino Lim giving the opening speech.

TOYOTA Shaw's general manager Liberty Magsipoc

New car showroom; World Cup fever in Manila

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva with Adidas Phils. president Jon Alonte

THE PODIUM'S Millie Dizon and host for the evening Ces Drilon

FRENCH Embassy's hunks: Sylvian Andrieau and Guillaume Des Noes

PR maven Keren Pascual with ADB's popular Portuguese looker Antonio Garcia

Golden Shoe Award

EVERYONE'S dream sport shoe: The Golden Boot—given to the most valuable player in football by Adidas

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

TOYOTA always does everything in big style, *palanggas*, so when *moi* was invited to the opening of the newly built high-tech facilities of Toyota Shaw Inc., I immediately went.

Toyota Shaw is now in a better and bigger location with a super showroom showcasing Toyota vehicles, *natch*. It offers quality services and genuine parts that Toyota is famous for, *palanggas*.

Hot-shot **Bayani Fernando**, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, gave very funny special remarks: "The reason I was invited was because of my longtime friendship with Toyota Shaw chair, **Severino Lim**, who stood as one of my secondary sponsors at my wedding."

The remarks were greeted with loud applause by the Toyota hot namedroppables such as lawyer **Reginald Oben**, Toyota Motor Phils. vice chair **Alfred Ty** and Toyota Phils. chair **Mobuharu Tabata**, plus Toyota owners and followers.

The Bayanihan dance company performed exciting rituals of the rice, which symbolized abundance; of the water, which symbolized the prayer that all transactions and relationships in Toyota Shaw would be as smooth as the water's flow; and the betel nut, which symbolized the gracious hospitality of Filipinos.

So everyone is welcome to visit Toyota Shaw, *naturellement*!

Adidas auction

There has been a sport fever for the last two months because of the Olympics, US Open and UAAP-NCAA. Power sportswear Adidas is particularly on a roll since it was the supporter of the UEFA Euro 2004 football tournament, in which Greece brought home the championship.

On the local front, UEFA excitement was also running high. Way before Greece scored the major goal of the season, Adidas kicked off with its own UEFA opening at The Podium.

Attending the kickoff were diehard football enthusiasts, dahlings, such as the popular Ambassador **Joao da Silva** of Portugal and **Johnny Romualdez**, president of the Philippine Football Federation.

At midnight, the exciting live telecast of the opening game in the Lisbon games was aired. Football fans yelled and whistled with delight.

At the end of the season, which saw the underdogs came out as winners, there was a special auction hosted by television glam gal **Ces Drilon**. The bidding was for the benefit of a charitable institution chosen by the Portuguese ambassador himself, *palanggas*.

The unique items at the auction were a UEFA shirt; a women's UEFA outfit, the only one in the Philippines; a **David Beckham** event kit; a "Road to Lisbon" campaign kit (an advertising kit featuring the world's top players); and **Freddie Gonzales** shirts (he just happens to be the Philippines' first international footballer; he plays for Vietnam).

Others auctioned were the GOL comic book and the CCCP jacket, which was part of the World Cup 1972 Heritage Collection.

The grand highlight was the auction of the in-demand Golden Boot, which is given by Adidas only to the most valuable football player.

Everything was auctioned off and Ambassador Da Silva went home a *tres* happy diplomat.

Myrna Yao's big bash

It was back to the swingin' '60s when that woman of substance and strength, Commissioner **Myrna T. Yao** of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, marked another dazzling year with a trip down memory lane at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club Banquet in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong, *palanggas*.

Myrna's pals from various organizations were all there. She had been, at one time or another, the president of the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Phils., National Council of Women of the Phils., and Pearl S. Buck Foundation Phils. She had also been a board member of Technical Education Skills and Development Authority and Zonta Club.

Myrna celebrated the special day with her *famille*, pals and "colleagues," as one way of thanking them for supporting her through a year-round of hard work and busy schedule.

"Her birthday becomes her unwinding treat to maintain the youthfulness of her body and mind," explained a guest.

So there they were, rock-and-rolling to the sounds of the '60s, *aprés* feasting on a huge buffet table consisting of Filipino and Chinese dishes, which Myrna herself chose.

In attendance were Consul General of Kazakstan **Edward Fereira**; Management Association of the Phils.' president and SGV & Co. chair **David Balangue**; Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair **Serge Ortiz** and honorary chair **Mike Varela**; National Broadcasting Network's lawyer **Romulo Macalintal**; brilliant SM Shoemart president **Tessie Coson**; and Marikina Mayor **Marides Fernando**.

It was crystal clear that the heavyweights present had a blast, with that worldwide hit tune that cracked the floor, "Let's twist and shout like we did last summer."

SERGE Ortiz and Narda Camacho (top); lawyer Mike Varela (right)

FIL-CHI PALS. Lawyer Romulo Macalintal, Rosario "Charing" Villar and Gigi Manzanilla

DR. Lolita Sunglao, Mila Macalintal, Judy Sy and lawyer Amy Wong

ODETTE Velarde, Gloria Rodriguez, Nel Belgado, Mark Bonjoc, Leslie Santos, Goody Custodio; (back row) Sandro Paredes, Julius Tabigue, Stewart Sy Suan, John Alonte, Bill Velasco and Toti Wong

COMMISSIONER Myrna Yao (second from left) celebrating her birthday with friends: (seated) Dave Balangue of SGV and MAP, Tessie Coson, Cynthia Subijano and Ed Fereira; (standing) Rosalind Wee, Marilyn Ong, Manny Alvarez and Josephine Ong

Skin care program for all types of complexion

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To cleanse and refresh:

Cleansing Milk (P950/200 ml)—A water soluble cleanser, it removes dirt and makeup without upsetting the skin's moisture balance. It has extracts of chamomile, sage and thyme.

Cleansing Bar (P500/100 g)—A mild bar with shea butter, it eliminates excess oil without causing dryness. It is best applied by working up a lather with a facial or shaving brush.

Herbal Tonifier (P950/200 ml)—Alcohol-free, it completes the cleansing process and refreshes the skin. It contains witch hazel to stimulate the skin, as well as extracts of sage to tighten pores, thyme to act as a mild antiseptic and chamomile extract to soothe.

To soften:

24-Hour Emulsion (P1,325/100 ml)—A light moisturizer, it penetrates quickly and softens without clogging pores. It contains Vitamin A and apricot kernel oil and is suitable for all skin types.

Moisturizing Day Cream (P1,325/47 ml)—For daily use, it softens skin and provides protection against the environment. It contains chamomile extract and Vitamin A to keep skin supple without greasiness.

Enriched Night Cream (P1,600/47 ml)—A rich, easily absorbed cream, it contains Vitamins D and E, avocado and wheat germ oils. It also contains allantoin to soothe skin and collagen for use for whenever the skin is too dry and needs extra moisturizing.

Body care:

Body Cream (P2,150/200 mg)—A deep moisturizing cream, it helps keep skin smooth and supple. Blended for quick absorption, it contains humectants and emollients.

Body Lotion (P950/200 ml)—A soothing, light and penetrating lotion, it contains moisturizers and herbal extracts (including chamomile) to provide protection against dryness.

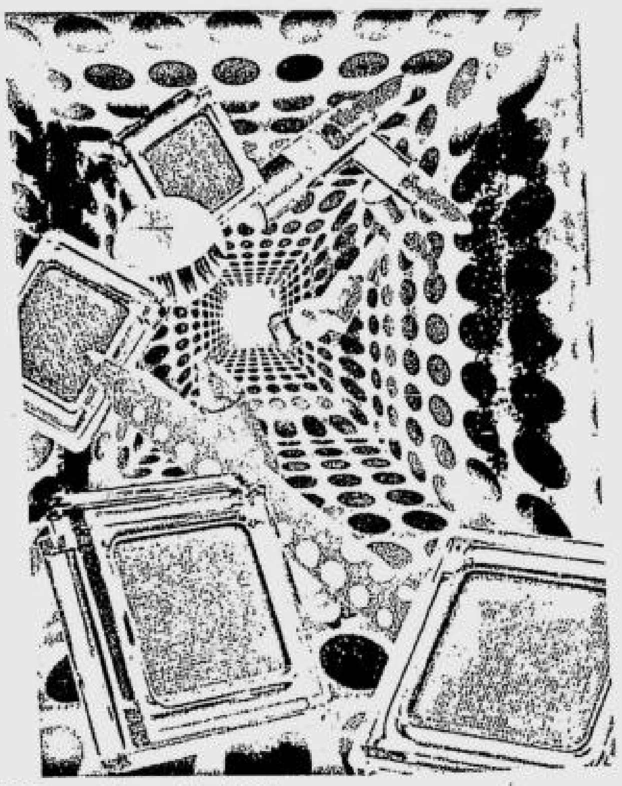
Bath/fragrance:

Foaming Bath Gel (P800/300 ml)—Spring-based water, this light gel can be used in the bath or the shower.

Bath Soap (P500/150 g)—A luxurious triple-milled soap enriched with shea butter.

Eau Fraiche (P1,325/100 ml)—This lightly scented body mist, with extracts of ivy and ginseng, refreshes and stimulates. It is an ideal fragrance after a bath or during the day.

Antiperspirant (P900/30 ml)—A roll-on, it dries quickly and leaves underarms smooth, without stickiness. Water-based, it is mild enough for delicate skin.



SHU Uemura Future Mode 001

Time for looks . . .

From page F1

skin!

Nars Uptown Chic Collection. Trust Nars to go the opposite trend, as it has opted for classy (read: tasteful and demure) glamour. My choice picks include the Chihuahua lip gloss (beige peachy pink), Bamako eyeliner (plum), individual eye shadows in Cyprus (golden bronze) and Barbuda (eggplant) and Taos (burnt rose with shimmer) Blush for that "I am blushing" effect. Cheeks do seem to be this makeup brand's focus.

CHANEL Think Ink lip color

Now, here's a makeup find. **I-nuovi** is half the price here compared to Singapore, and its quality is certainly competitive to other brand names. My favorites: blushes for P450 each in appealing shades such as Aura, peachy pink with shimmer (comes pretty close to Nars Orgasm), Candy (bubblegum pink) and Juicy (baby pink). Lipsticks are comparable in texture to Sue de Vitt at P450 each. Eye shadows are at P350 each, with very good pigment quality and a wide range of color. I-nuovi's brushes are made of natural hair and are relatively cheaper than most prestige brands.

Nars is exclusively sold at Essenses Rustan's, while Chanel and Shu Uemura are in Rustan's Department Store. I-nuovi is available at any pcx or First Aid (2/F Greenbelt 3) store

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